

Hafa Adai!

Last day today to register for business summit on Aug. 10. **PAGE 2**
NMI Girl Scouts learn about gardening. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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'Senate did not violate OGA'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The defense lawyer in the lawsuit filed by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and two Saipan residents against the Senate leadership

over its conduct of the governor's impeachment trial says his clients' action did not violate the Open Government Act.

According to Colin Thompson, who represents the defendants in this case, the Senate's adoption of the impeachment rules and the conduct of the impeachment hearing were not hidden from public view
See SENATE on Page 4

Republican, Democratic bets to file candidacies today

» Republican has 31 candidates, Democratic Party has 12, unified independent has 18 so far



Torres



Sablan



Palacios

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
fergie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Republican Party and NMI Democratic Party are expected to show force today when their supporters and family members accompany the candidates when

they file today, Friday, their candidacy papers with the Commonwealth Election Commission office in Su-supe, for the Nov. 8 general election.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive di-
See BETS on Page 4

Construction begins at Japan nuke plant for water release

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—The construction of facilities needed for a planned release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea next year from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant began Thursday despite opposition from the local fishing community.

See CONSTRUCTION on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Rabeya Akter, Steven Chen are NMI's first-ever Congressional Awardees



Rabeya Akter and Xin "Steven" Chen are the Northern Marianas' first-ever recipients of the Congressional Award, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday.

The Congressional Award is the U.S. Congress's highest honor for youth, awarded to

students for achieving personal goals focused on volunteerism, character development, and fitness.

Akter, a 2022 graduate of Kagman High School, was awarded the bronze medal. Chen, an incoming senior at Saipan Inter-

See AWARDEES on Page 4

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) presents Rabeya Akter and Steven Chen with congressional commendations for being the first individuals from the Northern Marianas to achieve the Congressional Award.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Lions Club of Saipan will be building new bus stop in As Terlaje to benefit PSS students.

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NATION

Alex Jones now says what happened in the deadliest school shooting in American history was real.

PAGE 15

WORLD

A United Nations fact-finding mission will investigate the killings at a prison in a region of Ukraine.

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Local

Last day today to register for business summit on Aug. 10

All business owners, managers, and participants of the Marianas Business Pride 2022 CNMI Small Business Survey can register until Aug. 5 to attend the Friends of Business Summit and luncheon on Aug. 10, 2022. Seating is limited; therefore, registration is required to attend this free event. Onsite registration will not be offered. Interested attendees can register for the Saipan event through the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' website at cnmieconomy.com.

For business owners and managers on Rota and Tinian who may be interested in participating, the Rota SBDC and Tinian SBDC will be hosting livestreamed events at the Northern Marianas College campuses on Rota and Tinian. Contact Diana Hocog at diana.benavente@marianas.edu to register for the Rota event and Jackie Mendiola at jackiemendi1995@gmail.com for the Tinian event. Registration ends today, Aug. 5, and there is no cost to attend any of the events.

The Friends of Business Summit will take place at the Taga Hall at Saipan World Resort from 12pm to 4pm

and will feature guest speakers, presentations, and interactive booths. The event partners aim to engage in conversations about the challenges of opening and operating a business in the CNMI and finding relevant solutions. Attendees will be able to receive support services for their businesses and take part in networking and community-building sessions.

The Friends of Business Summit and luncheon is hosted by the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the GCEA.

For more information, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or send an email to executive@saipanchamber.com.

The CNMI SBDCN comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and the Tinian SBDC. CNMI SBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. (PR)

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Deleon Guerrero: Another enrollment increase at NMC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said they are excited about the upcoming fall semester because they have another enrollment increase, among other new things.

Deleon Guerrero, who was among the speakers during the groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday for the hazard elimination project at the corner of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and Chalan Antonio Apa Road near NMC in Fina-

sisu, said enrollment increase comes despite all the devastation the CNMI has suffered—typhoons, pandemic and economic turbulence.

“It’s really refreshing and rewarding to see that people are prioritizing higher education,” he said.

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NMC’s fall 2022 semester starts Aug. 15.

Deleon Guerrero said they are looking at a lot of new things being launched this year such as the Proa Promise Program. “That’s going to ensure that we have a last-dollar scholarship program to ensure

that everyone can afford higher education,” he said.

The Proa Promise Initiative, which will start this fall 2022 semester and will apply to any U.S. citizen who pursues a de-



Deleon Guerrero

gree at NMC, will cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees that are not covered by the Pell grant, other federal financial aid, CNMI Scholarship grants,

municipal scholarship grants, military educational benefits, and private scholarships.

Then there are new facilities that are going to be coming up.

“This is just a harbinger of things to come,” Deleon Guerrero said, adding that they’ve

See NMC on Next Page

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Conversations on mask wearing in schools continue

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the recent surge of COVID-19 within the CNMI community and the reopening of schools right around the corner, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force are currently in discussion with the Public School System regarding the enforcement of mask-wearing in campus.

According to Dr. Lily Muldoon,

Public Health medical director of CHCC, the COVID-19 Task Force is currently in discussion with the PSS to address whether or not mask wearing will still be enforced in campuses and to what extent.

“The COVID-19 Task Force has been in touch with PSS on the school openings and the conversations are still underway on the exact mechanisms for mask wearing,” she said.

In addition, Muldoon said conversations are also underway on whether

to make it a requirement for students to get their COVID-19 vaccines in order to enroll for the upcoming school year.

“There’ll be some announcements further about what exactly to expect as the school systems open. But we do expect that the Public School System should open in full. I highly encourage everybody to get back to school and take advantage of this opportunity when we have lower rates of COVID to make sure

that our kids are continuing to stay educated,” she said.

Muldoon noted that these conversations were raised following the CNMI’s small surge in COVID-19 cases, which took the CNMI to Community Level Medium, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Being in Community Level Medium means that we should be wearing masks, making sure that we’re staying up-to-date on our boosters, and just being conscientious of protecting our most vulnerable community members. COVID is still with us in our community. We are seeing it impact all different types of people in various ways. I am optimistic that our COVID trends are currently down trending over the last two weeks,” she said.

Jennifer Dudek, territorial state epidemiologist, stated that in-school COVID testing will still be available this upcoming school year.

“There still will be school testing. CHCC is working with public and private schools so that will be a still available within the school systems,” she said.

Dudek said the CNMI is still at Community Level Medium based on the number of cases the CNMI has had in the last few months, so she encourages everyone to remain cautious as the beginning of the school year inches closer.

“We have had a trend upward as of the beginning of June. As of July 27, there’s been a total of 12,661 COVID-19 positive cases [in the CNMI since the pandemic began]. Our seven-day rolling average is about 22.8 cases per day. We are trending downwards as of the last couple of weeks. We reached as high as almost 240 cases for one week. But in the last two weeks, we have been trending downward. We currently do not have anyone hospitalized,” she said.

CONSTRUCTION

From Page 1

Plant workers started construction of a pipeline to transport the wastewater from hillside storage tanks to a coastal facility before its planned release next year, according to the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings.

The digging of an undersea tunnel was also to begin later Thursday.

Construction at the Fukushima Daiichi plant follows the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s formal approval last month of a detailed wastewater discharge plan that TEPCO

submitted in December.

The government announced last year a decision to release the wastewater as a necessary step for the plant’s ongoing decommissioning.

A massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi plant’s cooling systems, causing triple meltdowns and the release of large amounts of radiation. Water that was used to cool the three damaged and highly radioactive reactor cores has since leaked into basements of the reactor buildings but was collected and stored in tanks.

TEPCO and government officials say the water will be further treated to levels far below releasable standards

and that the environmental and health impacts will be negligible. Of more than 60 isotopes selected for treatment, all but one — tritium — will be reduced to meet safety standards, they say.

Local fishing communities and neighboring countries have raised concerns about potential health hazards from the radioactive wastewater and the reputation damage to local produce, and oppose the release.

Scientists say the impact of long-term, low-dose exposure to not only tritium but also other isotopes on the environment and humans are still unknown and that a release is premature.

SENATE

From Page 1

as argued by the plaintiffs, therefore their actions did not violate the Open Government Act.

In addition, Thompson stated that the impeachment rules are not subject to challenge under the Open Government Act.

“Nor, under the political question and legislative immunity doctrines, can the court order the Senate to rewrite its impeachment rules based on plaintiffs’ sense of how procedural due process should work, their beliefs about fairness, or the correct burden of proof to convict the govern-

nor,” Thompson said.

Lastly, Thompson argues that invalidating the Senate’s acquittal of the governor would expose the political process to chaos “without any meaningful relief for plaintiffs.”

Manglona, Carmen Patricia Deleon Guerrero, and Bruce Lee Jorgensen filed their Open Government Act lawsuit on May 11, 2022, and sought to invalidate the Senate impeachment rules and stop the Senate impeachment hearing that concluded on May 18, 2022.

The lawsuit named Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), in his official capacity, and Sens. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), Victor Hocog (R-Rota), Francisco Cruz (R-

Tinian), Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), and Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), in their official capacities, as defendants.

The plaintiffs also simultaneously filed a petition for a temporary restraining order but the Superior Court neither granted nor denied the plaintiffs’ request.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was impeached by the House of Representatives on Jan. 12, 2022. The Senate acquitted him of all charges on May 18, 2022.

Following the conclusion of the impeachment trial, Torres was tried in court on allegations of corruption, misconduct in office, and felonies of theft as well as contempt but he has since denied the allegations.

AWARDEES

From Page 1

national School, was awarded the silver medal.

“Congratulations to Miss Rabeya Akter and Mr. Steven Chen on achieving the Northern Marianas’ first-ever Congressional Award medals,” said Sablan. “The Congressional Award program is an incredible opportunity for students to be recognized for their hard work toward their personal goals in the fields of volunteerism, personal development, expedition, and physical fitness.”

“I commend Ms. Akter and Mr. Chen for their initiative and hope that their accomplishment inspires more young people in the Marianas to pursue the Congressional Award,” added Sablan.

Akter attained the bronze medal by accumulating 100 hours of voluntary public service, 50 hours of personal development activities, 50 hours of physical fitness activities, and completing an expedition requirement equivalent to at least two days and one night over a period of at least

seven months.

“For my volunteer service, I volunteered at the Karidat Thrift Store, sorting items and helping the staff. I also volunteered as an after-school tutor at Tanapag Middle School,” said Akter. “My personal development goal for the Congressional Award was to learn how to crochet. I saw my [adviser] wearing a crocheted face mask and decided that I wanted to learn how to make crocheted items too.”

Chen achieved his silver medal by accumulating 200 hours of voluntary public service, 100 hours of personal development activities, 100 hours of physical fitness activities, and completing expedition requirement equivalent to at least three days and two nights over a period of at least 12 months.

“I earned my volunteer hours by volunteering as a translator and financial assistant with [the Federal Emergency Management Agency]. I also volunteered at an animal shelter. Between those two activities, I was able to accumulate the volunteer hours I needed to earn the silver medal,” said Xin. “For my personal development activity, I invested my time in improving my piano skills.”

Established by Congress in 1979, the Congressional Award honors initiative, service, and achievement among young people. Students achieve the Congressional Award by setting goals and accumulating activity hours in the four program areas of volunteering, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration. The program is open to all youth regardless of ability, circumstance, or socioeconomic status. Young people may register for the program at <https://www.congressionalaward.org/register/> at age 13 and a half. They have until their 24th birthday to complete their goals.

More details about the Congressional Award can be found on Sablan congressional office website, <https://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/congressional-award>, and on the Congressional Award website, <https://congressionalaward.org>. Additional resources and presentations about the Congressional Award are available from Sablan’s congressional district offices. For more information, call the Saipan District Office at 670-323-2647 or write to kilili@mail.house.gov. (PR)

BETS

From Page 1

rector Kayla S. Igitol said Wednesday that the Republican Party cancelled their original plan to file their candidacies on Aug. 9. Instead, the Republican Party candidates will file their petitions for nomination and candidacy documents today, Friday, at 11am, while the NMI Democratic Party candidates will file at 3:30pm, Igitol said.

The Democratic Party’s list shows 12 candidates, including Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and Rep. Leila Fleming Staffler (D-Saipan), who are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will be filing his candidacy for his 8th term as the CNMI’s delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives under the Democratic Party.

Rep. Richard T. Lizama is the Democratic Party’s candidate for Saipan mayor, while Rep. Celina R. Babauta is the party’s only bet for two available seats for the Senate representing Saipan and Northern Islands. Babauta has already filed her candidacy.

Rep. Christina Sablan said the party is endorsing Rep. Donald M. Manglona, who is running for a Rota Senate seat as an independent.

Sablan said that after filing their candidacies they will hold a roadside waving across the CEC office.

For the House of Representatives, the Democratic Party has seven candidates for 20 available seats. The party has no candidates for Precinct 2, Precinct 4, and Precinct 7 (Rota).

For Precinct 1, the Democratic Party bets are Rep. Edwin K. Propst

and Diego Vincent F. Camacho.

For Precinct 3, the Democratic Party has Reps. Vicente C. Camacho and Denita K. Yangetmai, who are seeking re-election. Yangetmai had already filed her candidacy. Lauren Yvonne S. Pangelinan is also the party’s third candidate for Precinct 3.

For Precinct 5, the Democratic Party’s candidate is Peter Reyes Muna. For Precinct 6 or Tinian, the Party has Frederick A. Dela Cruz.

Last July 14, *Saipan Tribune* published the NMI Republican Party’s list that shows 31 candidates, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres who is seeking re-election, and Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, who is running for lieutenant governor.

The Republican has a full slate of candidates for the Senate and mayors for Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands.

The GOP has also a full slate of candidates for the House, except for Precinct 1, where the party has five bets for six positions.

Last July 22, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang filed their candidacies as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, along with their slate of 16 candidates under a unified independent team.

A source said two more candidates from Tinian may likely file any time their candidacies under the Palacios-Apatang’s independent team.

Meanwhile, former lawmaker Crispin M. Ogo filed Tuesday his candidacy for a Rota Senate seat as an independent. Ogo served two terms, 2004 to 2008, in the House representing Rota.

Aug. 10 is the deadline to file candidacies.

broadcasting efforts for the recent Pacific Mini Games, with a lot of help from KSPN2 News as well as their other community partners.

As a result, he said, they were able to acquire a lot of new equipment, which they would use to launch the new media communications program.

“We are already using the equipment for various community needs. But we’d like to take the volunteers that went through the training, and maybe upskill them even more,” Deleon Guerrero said.

NMC

From Page 3

got a student center groundbreaking in just a few months.

Soon after, Deleon Guerrero said, they’re going to be moving forward with a lot of other departments on campus. “So very, very exciting time to be in the NMC Proa,” he said.

NMC is also going to launch a new media communications program. Deleon Guerrero said NMC led all the

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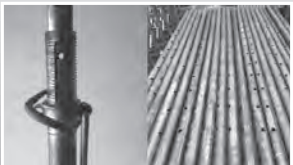
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As Terlaje students to soon see a new bus stop

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To provide students in As Terlaje with shelter while waiting for their school bus, District 204-Region 2 of the Lions Club of Saipan under the Lions Club International will be building new bus stop in the village. It will be located between YCO Tru Value Hardware and Pikasso Auto Shop in As Terlaje.

Members of the club, led by Saipan Centennial Lions Club president Marie Javier, and immediate past district governor Atoy Banting, broke ground on the club's latest project last Wednesday. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, as well as several Public School System officials were also present for the event, including Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, PSS Pupil Transportation



Members of the Lion's Club of Saipan cheer, as officials, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, dig the first shovel of sand during a new bus shelter's ground-breaking ceremony in As Terlaje on Wednesday.
CHRYSTAL MARINO

director Shawn San Nicolas, along with Reps. Roy Ada (R-Saipan) and Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

"It's very nice to see that a civic organization such as them [Lion's Club Saipan]

have taken on this project to ensure that our kids have shelter and are kept safe while they wait for their bus rides to their schools and when they return home. ... We're very thankful for the

Lion's Club for this contribution," Demapan noted.

In a later interview, club program coordinator Mario Mayuga said the bus shelter will be a safe, weather-resilient, fully concrete shelter

for students from As Terlaje.

The bus stop project is one of many community projects the Lions Club of Saipan is planning to accomplish. The estimated funds being used is around \$30,000.

IRP completes assessments/reporting for permitting for over 40 fed-funded works

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since its inception in May 2021, the CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program has completed the required assessments/reporting for permitting for over 40 federally

projects for different government agencies, as requested by government stakeholder agencies, according to IRP project liaison Deveney M. Dela Cruz.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry about IRP accomplishments, Dela Cruz

said Monday that they completed the required archaeological monitoring and biological survey for the Oleai Sports Complex in preparation for the recent Pacific Mini Games.

She said they finished the Section 106 (archaeological)

assessment/recommendation for over 100 Northern Marianas Housing Corp.-U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-funded home sites for their qualified Homebuyer-New Construction, Rehabilitation/Reconstruction, and Affordable Housing Rental Program applicants.

Dela Cruz said they accomplished the permitting and scoping needs for the CNMI Homeland Security Emergency Management Marpi Communications Tower.

They're also done with permitting and coordination for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Garapan Fishing Base Riprock Revetment Project, as well as with the design



Dela Cruz

and permitting needs for the Sugar Dock Association Pavilion Rehabilitation in Chalan Kanoa.

Dela Cruz said IRP hosted six trainings, including the ongoing site inspections and project delivery management trainings at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao, in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Interagency Recovery Coordination for participants on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

She said they also assisted the Historic Preservation Office whenever possible with additional projects as HPO does not currently have an archaeologist.

Dela Cruz said the IRP under Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Directive 21-005 sets out their program to continue until May 2023.

She said they hope that the program can continue past this May 2023 deadline, but in this remaining year, they are working to see that all projects that they have been or will be tasked or asked to assist with not only complete the permitting requirements but that they can also help monitor and support as many of them as possible to completion.

"We hope to strengthen the communication between our stakeholders and permitting agencies to streamline the

permitting process and reduce the wait time for approval," she said.

Dela Cruz said they collaborate with more federal partners, including FEMA, for more trainings that sup-

port the capacity needs of the CNMI government and other entities that support permitting needs for infrastructure and recovery-related projects and see how federal partners can support the CNMI.

Torres created the IRP to streamline the process and expedite federally-funded projects worth nearly a billion dollars for different government agencies.

IRP assists the Disaster Relief-Public Assistance of FEMA and hazard mitigation projects and moves forward projects of the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and some road projects.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo is the IRP's coordinator.



NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: PROGRAM AIDE
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a non-exempt position responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the office and its programs. The Program Aide reports to the Executive Director and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ At least a High School Diploma or its equivalence including a GED and other similar certificates;
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer usage including but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications;
- ✓ Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license; and
- ✓ Must be able to operate various office equipment including but not limited to telephones, faxes, and copier machines.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a **Cover Letter**, (2) a **Resumé**, (3) **Completed Application forms**. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact **Mr. Gregory Borja** at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / (670) 287-0652 [message] or email at gborja@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**.

Deadline to submit applications will be on August 19, 2022 at 4pm

NMI Girl Scouts learn about gardening

Peering closely at their new green onion shoots, NMI Girl Scout members listened to tips on how to produce a healthy garden as part of earning a badge Saturday morning at Hopwood Junior High School.

Victor Cabrera, who is Hopwood's career and technical education instructor and had volunteered to teach a mini-workshop, gave them green onion sprouts to grow and toured the young girl scouts around the school's farm.

NMI Girl Scout troop leader Reina Camacho said this workshop and tour was part of earning "Make the World a Better Place" badge for the local Girl Scout troop.

To complete the process, they must also share photos of their green onion sprouts from planting to harvesting and even cooking.

"You can, if you want to, share how you used the green onions in a dish, but mostly, we would like to see how well it grew under your care," said Camacho.

NMI Girl Scout Kyrie Palec said she hopes to start her own garden one day and enjoyed learning about different plants and how to grow them.

"They are the future. If they know how to garden, and they know how to grow their own food, or at least just a little bit to supplement what they need, then that

means we would be less dependent on what's being imported," said Cabrera.

"If you spark that interest at a young age, they'll grow up with that interest. That's why I like volunteering for opportunities like these," he said.

For more information on the NMI Girl Scouts, visit www.facebook.com/nmi-girlscouts. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Girl Scouts members show their pledges and new plants after a workshop with CTE instructor Victor Cabrera and NMI Girl Scout troop leader Jessy Loomis.

Saipan filmmaker to premiere a new film



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, second from left, plays the lead role of Neil in the film Steps on the Shore.

Saipan filmmaker Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga will premiere a new film, Steps on the Shore, which he wrote, directed, and starred in, on Monday, Aug. 8, at Hollywood Theaters. The film follows a high school graduate during his last days on island before heading off to college as he grapples with lingering conflicts involving family and his sense of belonging to the island.

Pajarillaga is a son of the Marianas who graduated in 2021 from Grace Christian Academy and is currently pursuing a film degree from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. At Wesleyan, he has also been a videographer for the university's Communications Department and the Women's Volleyball Team.

In preparing for his summer break back home, Pajarillaga felt it was important to tell a

story that resonates with him and many of his peers. "This film has allowed me to rediscover the beauty of my home," Pajarillaga said. More importantly, the film enabled me to confront fears and doubts I had about filmmaking."

The film was produced by Northern Marianas College president and local filmmaker Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "It is great to see up and coming young filmmakers like Elijah who are committed to giving voice to the struggles of his generation," said Deleon Guerrero. "This is a touching film that exudes authenticity and warmth. I urge everyone to come see it."

Steps on the Shore will be screened at Hollywood Theaters on Monday, Aug. 8, at 8pm. Admission is \$5 and tickets may be purchased at the door. (PR)

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500 Sails, PSS co-op program in spotlight at SCC meeting

500 Sails’ Cultural Maritime Training Center took center stage at the recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly general membership meeting, during which the Public School System’s Cooperative Education Program also did a special presentation on its role in the CNMI’s workforce development.

At the meeting, held Wednesday, Aug. 3, at the Queens Hall of the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Emma Perez, Marjorie Daria, and Andrew Roberto touched on the 500 Sails’ Cultural Maritime Training Center and how it benefits the youth workforce by providing new professional development, job opportunities and how it supports tourism and economic diversity.

Brandon S. Nicholas from the PSS Co-Op program presented “Building Tomorrow’s Workforce” and its challenges along with its benefits. The program teaches students job placement techniques, career exploration, financial literacy, and resume drafting. The program gives career exposure to high school students over the age of 16.

Spend Down waiver for Medicaid beneficiaries

The Commonwealth Medicaid Agency would like to inform the Medicaid beneficiaries who are availing of the Spend Down Program that effective Aug. 5, 2022, a maximum of \$1,000 will be waived. Any amount in excess of this amount must be spent in order for Medicaid to reimburse services rendered within a calendar month.

If your Spend Down amount is equal to or less than \$1,000, you are not required to pay for your medical services.

This benefit is valid for the duration of the National Public Health Emergency only. For more information, you may contact the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency at any of the following numbers: (670) 664-4880/4882/4886/4887/4888. **(PR)**

SCC president Joe Guerrero also introduced to the chamber members the new executive director, Kimberly C. Camacho, and the new Marketing and Membership coordinator, Riley Buenaventura, who will be joining Franco Santos, Financial and Data Management coordinator.

Guerrero and the SCC board of directors also presented a plaque of appreciation to outgoing executive director Lynard “Lee” Tenorio.

The SCC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan’s private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and community succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a member, visit www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Room 413). **(Saipan Tribune)**

Water service interruption on Aug. 10 in Upper San Vicente

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Katbon Road, Shoko Drive, Bentana Drive, and Palu Drive in the Upper San Vicente area.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC water operators to repair service lateral leaks on Katbon Road and Shoko Drive in San Vicente. Customers should expect normal water service soon after.

For the safety of the men and women working at the jobsite, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and/or take an alternative route when traveling through the area as the shoulder of the southbound lane will be closed during the repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333). **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT, PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **“Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion Project, CPA-TA-001-20”** and submitted on or before **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of construction of additional parking spaces including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each DVD. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and should verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International International Airport Departure Terminal, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. This pre-bid is not mandatory. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Antonio Borja, CPA's Tinian Ports Manager at alborja@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date, with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. Bidders shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other local and Federal requirements as outlined in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 20, 2022



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS



CK SMOKEHOUSE & SALAD

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Monday- Friday: 5:00 PM-7:00 PM
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(Upcoming Plan/ Coming Soon)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Kansas voters spoke loudly on abortion: Trust women. Now politicians must listen

The nation now knows, and the world: Kansas remains a free state.

In a stunning display of common sense, Kansas voters Tuesday overwhelmingly rejected a constitutional amendment that would have put abortion policy completely in the hands of the Legislature, and the governor.

It was a victory on several fronts. First, and most important, it was a victory for women. Kansans said in a loud, unmistakable voice that women can and should be trusted with the most intimate questions of their own health and safety.

It was also a victory for voters, who defied predictions of a low turnout and cast ballots in churches, gyms, city halls and community centers. Many voted early. Voters were able to dissect puzzling ballot language, purposely designed to confuse and intimidate.

They rejected false nonsense from anti-abortion groups, including several ludicrous attempts to link the vote to so-called critical race theory, or defunding police. A last-minute text message, apparently authorized by a group run by former U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, was quickly disregarded as a bald-faced lie.

Tuesday was also a victory for Kansans who oppose heavy-handed government intervention in private decisions. In 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court said a woman's right to choose abortion is inalienable—it cannot be taken away. It was the right decision.

In 2022, Kansas voters overwhelmingly endorsed that view.

In a normal environment, opponents of abortion rights would take “no” for an answer. Don't count on it. We fully expect state lawmakers to push anti-choice bills next year, particularly if a Republican is elected governor. Those laws will then be tested in court.

Remember, the state Supreme Court has said some restrictions on abortion are still allowed. The rules must meet a tough standard, but they're legal.

There will be an attempt in November to dislodge sitting Kansas Supreme Court judges. Don't fall for it. The same voters who endorsed choice Tuesday should endorse the court as well.

While deeply satisfying, Tuesday's victory should not be a reason for gloating, or pointing fingers. Abortion remains difficult, divisive and morally difficult. That's the main reason government should stay out of the decision-making process for women.

At the same time, we should not forget the attempt by

See KANSAS on Next Page



Is the end of Value Them Both the start of something much bigger? Time will tell

What do you even write when the most powerful lobbying force in your state not only loses a pivotal election, but gets their heads handed to them? The immediate reaction is shock.

The secondary reaction is that something may be changing; that we could be seeing a generational shift where the pressure politics of the past don't work anymore.

In January, when more than two-thirds of our state representatives and senators put the Value Them Both Amendment on the ballot, it looked like the proposition that couldn't possibly lose.

Conventional wisdom — that Kansas is an anti-abortion state — was on their side. And the anti-abortion Republicans who dominate the Legislature stacked the deck as much as they could.

They deliberately put it on a primary ballot because historically, August primaries have been sleepy affairs where Republicans vote and not much of anybody else does. And the people who wrote the initiative got to write not just the amendment, but the ballot statements for and against it.

Most of all, they had the backing of a seemingly invincible lobby. For the two decades-plus that I've covered Kansas politics, Kansans for Life has called the tune at the Statehouse and the Legislature has lined up to dance to it.

KFL has been a kingmaker in the Statehouse and they were key players in purging just about every pro-choice moderate GOP legislator from the Capitol.

And if there are any pro-choice Republican lawmakers left in Topeka, the mere threat of being primaried by KFL and the anti-abortion right was enough to cow them into submission and vote to put the amendment on a primary ballot.

But it all came crashing down Tuesday when the voters got to weigh in.

As of this writing, with 97% of the votes counted, the score was “No” 59%, “Yes” 41%.

The primary architect of the defeat of the Value Them Both Amendment is the United States Supreme Court.

Over the years, pro-choice Kansas has been complacent — letting the Legislature pass more or less whatever it wanted on abortion, secure in the knowledge that the fundamental right to choose was protected at the federal level.

In June, when the High Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and threw abortion to the states, pro-choice Kansans — who according to polls were always the majority — finally woke up.

All of a sudden, the only thing standing in the way of a total abortion ban was a 2019 Kansas Supreme Court ruling that the Kansas Constitution contained a right for women to control their bodies and their pregnancies.

In the Value Them Both campaign, pro-choice had a lot of catching up to do.

While the anti-abortion side entered the ring with a fully-scripted, heavily funded and well-mobilized campaign, pro-choice marchers took to the streets with hand-painted signs because they

By **DION LEFLER**

The Wichita Eagle

Opinion Editor Dion Lefler has been providing award-winning coverage of local government, politics and business as a reporter in Wichita for 23 years.



didn't have enough professionally printed ones to go around.

Another thing that happened was that younger Kansans, who until now had little interest in state politics, came out in droves for this election.

When I covered the “No” side's election watch party Tuesday night, I ran into civic activist Jane Byrnes. She appeared in a “vote no” campaign ad and also served as a poll worker Tuesday.

She was shocked by the sheer number of younger voters. “I've worked primaries before and hardly anybody voted,” she said. “And they were all old people.”

I didn't cover the Value Them Both election watch. Like almost all serious journalists in the state, I was banned by the campaign from attending.

So all I can tell you about their thinking is that they blamed — you guessed it — the mainstream media.

According to their written statement, the media “propelled the left's false narrative, contributing to the confusion that misled Kansans about the amendment.”

That's not what happened at all.

I can only speak for myself, but I never believed their infinitely repeated protestations that they didn't want to ban abortion, just make reasonable regulations about it.

I didn't believe it because they didn't even believe it themselves. Apparently, about six out of 10 voters didn't believe them either.

So, is this a one-off election to protect a particular right that is of particular interest to young voters, or is this a generational shift with newly energized participants demanding a change in the status quo?

It's hard to tell at this point.

But if everyone who showed up for Tuesday's election shows up in November, this could be the start of changing everything.

It could be the beginning of reversing the trend of extremism that has marred Kansas state politics for the last five election cycles.

And it could bring back the days when Republican lawmakers were allowed to be independent thinkers, not just power lobbyists' puppets living in constant fear of being purged as “RINOs” — Republican In Name Only.

On Tuesday, we became a better state because voters showed up and had their say.

Here's hoping we can do it again.

GCEA celebrates two years of improving life in the Marianas for all

Hāfa Adai yan Tirow Wóómi! August 2022 marks the second full year of operation for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. The council's efforts throughout the year exhibit the value of collaboration between the private sector and our government to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

The council, under the leadership of co-chairman Jerry Tan, has played an instrumental role in bridging the gap and incorporating the viewpoints of local businesses and organizations in community policies and activities. The council has accomplished a great deal in two short years. One of GCEA's greatest successes is the establishment and growth of the Public Private Partnership program, which models the spirit of one Marianas and neighbors helping neighbors. PPP partners have committed to adopting their sites for five years and have helped to improve our public sites for all to enjoy. Join me in thanking them for another great year of service that benefits our entire community.

From tourism recovery to envisioning the Marianas as a world-class destination, the council has made significant progress in 2021 through the work of its committees.

For the first part of 2021, the council worked to prepare the CNMI for the return of tourism. The safe and successful resumption of tourism has been its top priority and one I consider a valuable achievement. Through the South Korean travel bubble agreement and the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan, the CNMI has received more than 7,000 tourists this year. As we anticipate the launch of United's direct service between Saipan and Narita/Tokyo, Japan on Sept. 1, I applaud the diligence of the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Tourism Resumption Task Force, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and all who were involved in this initiative.

On top of tourism resumption, the community was able to celebrate the beginning of our COVID-19 recovery by inviting our



**GOVERNOR'S
COUNCIL OF
ECONOMIC
ADVISERS**

Pacific brothers and sisters to compete in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. NMPMG was a resounding victory for our athletes and the CNMI. In a post-pandemic period in the Pacific, we were able to demonstrate that the Marianas is prepared to re-enter the tourist market. NMPMG also became our first venture into exploring strategies for growing sports tourism.

The council's long-term goal of transforming the Marianas into a world-class destination prompted the launch of the Marianas Village Pride Campaign. MVP is designed to instill a sense of pride and ownership within the community. With this came five offshoot community programs to encourage widespread pride and participation. We saw the unveiling of our beautiful new village flags during the NMPMG, and we continue to reap the benefits of the Adopt-A-Median Program. You can count on GCEA's program to meet its mission: to improve the quality of life in the Marianas.

The road to recovery

We have accomplished so much in the last two years and we are excited about what lies ahead. The council's recent program, the Friends of Business Summit, has been in the works for the past couple of months. GCEA and its partners, the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and Saipan Chamber of Commerce are engaging business owners and managers in conversation about the challenges of launching and maintaining a business in the CNMI. The partners will identify suitable solutions and will work with local agencies to improve efficiency through e-government platforms. We look forward to expanding this effort as we launch the Marianas Business Pride program this month.

I invite all small business owners/managers to join us at the Friends of Business Summit on Aug. 10, 2022, from 12:30pm to 4pm at Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. We want as many businesses as possible to attend and share their opinions

TOGETHER, WE CAN By RALPH DLG TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG. Torres is the 9th governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the co-chairman of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.



with us, so that we can prioritize initiatives that will positively support their needs.

For our students, the council is thrilled to launch the Marianas School Pride program for elementary, middle, and high school students in public and private schools. Our Marianas Village Pride Campaign was successful, and we know we can engage our students in caring for their schools and villages. Instilling pride in our youth is a lesson that will reap exponential benefits in their lives.

Looking ahead, we must build upon the success we achieved during the pandemic, such as working toward economic diversification by inviting new and innovative industries to establish a presence in the CNMI.

The council also has a goal of better supporting healthier lifestyles for all who call the Marianas home. We see a new role for government in the lives of our people by encouraging healthy living, maintenance of community facilities, and the modernization of our infrastructure to make lives easier.

All the accomplishments of the previous year were a result of the CNMI's extraordinary efforts to safeguard its people from the COVID-19 pandemic. The swift access to immunizations and the implemented measures allowed the CNMI to design a path toward recovery. Together, We Can!

For more information about GCEA's programs, visit cnmieconomy.com, engage with the council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

School attendance should be a high priority. Youths' well-being depends on it

When I was young, my friends and I did chores at home such as cutting grass, raking leaves and shoveling snow. It wasn't a big deal because that was the expectation. My brother and I were fortunate enough to have parents who paid an allowance, but that didn't mean we had a choice to not do what was required of us. Our parents wanted to teach us the value of a dollar and the payoff that comes from hard work.

Nowadays, I often see parents doing yard work and other chores instead of their children. I often wonder: Why aren't they making their children do it? How will their children learn to value hard work? And what impact will that have on those children as they get older?

Our youths are impressionable. What they value, believe in and do daily is often based on what they see, hear and are al-

lowed to do. When I have asked parents and neighbors why they don't have their children do the chores, the response often is, "My child is lazy." It's the same discussion I have had with parents and others about school attendance. The response is often the same: "My child is lazy."

There used to be a time when we wouldn't dare miss school unless it was an emergency. Attending it was a priority. We relished having perfect attendance, for which we would receive accolades and other rewards. In some regards, achieving perfect attendance ranked just as high as receiving outstanding academic marks because it exemplified dedication.

For far too many, that is no longer the case. Student absenteeism is a major problem, according to the findings of the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection. During the 2015-16 school year, several years before the pandemic, more than 7 million students missed 15 or more days of school. That is about 16% of the student population. About 800 school districts across the country reported that 30% of their students missed at least three weeks of school.

COVID-19 exacerbated the problem, which is understandable to a degree. The last couple years—the uncertainty, fear and need to prevent transmission of the virus—have been very difficult for families. However, as the data shows, even before the pandemic, it was clear that far too many students were missing days of school that they should not have been.

The implications are far-reaching. According to the U.S. Department of Education, students with chronic absenteeism are more likely to drop out of school and have poor grades.

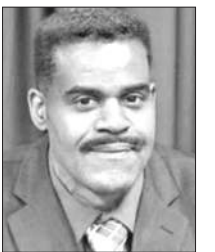
The problem gets worse as the students grow older. Chronic absenteeism is more pronounced in high school, affecting about 1 in 5 students. When they leave high school, these same students are more likely to live in poverty, have poor health and become involved in the criminal justice system.

Student attendance should be prioritized once again. School districts across the country have strict guidelines to follow with regards to student attendance. The Every Student Succeeds Act signed by President Barack Obama in 2015 requires school districts to report five indicators of school performance, including one nonacademic indicator: Many schools chose chronic absenteeism.

However, the problem is not something only schools can

By JERALD MCNAIR Chicago Tribune

Jerald McNair is a school administrator at South Holland Illinois School District 151.



solve. While schools can incentivize student attendance, put together committees to study and address it, and have officials visit the homes of students, parents are the ones who set the stage for instilling the value of hard work. And attending school every day is evidence of it.

It's not enough to simply say, "My child is lazy." What we require our children to do, such as cutting grass and raking leaves, may affect how they value other things in life—such as going to school or working.

America's labor force needs a citizenry that believes in hard work. In 1990, labor force participation rates were near 65% for individuals age 16 to 24, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since 2002, those numbers have continued to decrease, save for a few years when there was a slight increase.

It's time to expect more from our youths. Having them come to school every day, unless they are sick, can affect the quality of their life when they get older. It's essential that authority figures such as parents have conversations with youths about the broad implications of each decision that youths make as it relates to building resiliency and establishing good habits for the future.

Development of a strong work ethic in our youths is essential to improving their lives and America's labor force. After all, "a dream does not become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work," as former Secretary of State Colin Powell once said. We want our youths to dream big and be whatever they want to in life. If we emphasize the value of hard work, it makes achieving those dreams more possible.

So, this school year, parents, let's make attending school a priority.

KANSAS

From Page 10

some faith leaders to inject themselves—and millions of dollars—into the campaign. We said faith could be an important factor in Tuesday's decision, but that no church has a right to impose its views on those who believe other ways, or not at all.

That lesson must remain embedded in Kansas politics. It's particularly galling that so-called religious leaders embraced a campaign deeply reliant on misinformation and lies to try to convince voters. The rhetoric was appalling.

We hope legislators learned an important lesson, too. Kansas Republicans wanted to hold the election in a sleepy August primary, and wanted to obfuscate their intentions with muddled ballot language. They got their wish. Voters brushed them aside.

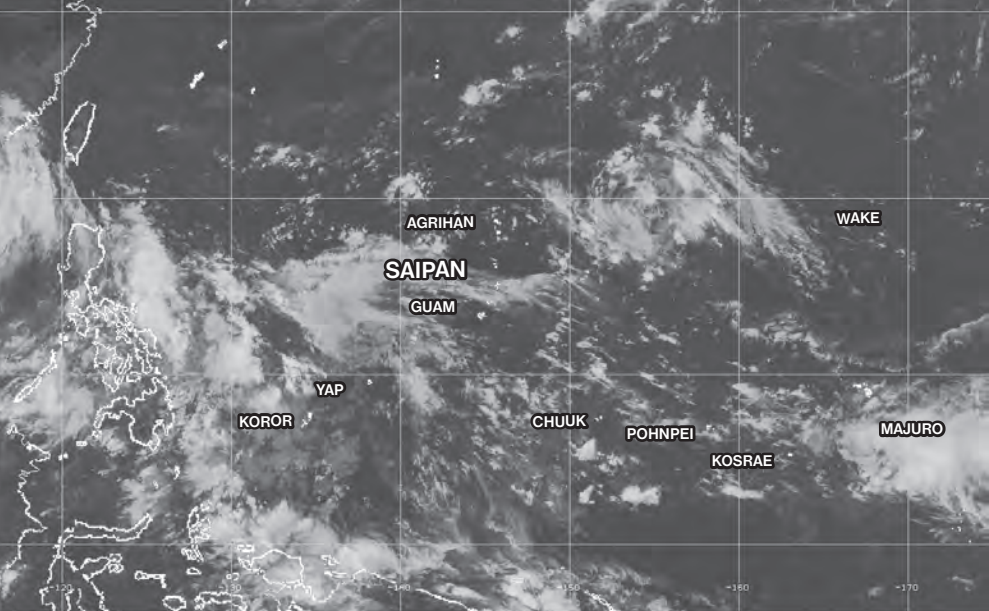
Don't try that again.

In the days ahead, pundits will analyze the Kansas results, and try to apply them to other states. We welcome that work. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito said states, not women, should decide this issue. Now Kansas, among the most conservative states in the nation, has answered his call.

Again, congratulations to Kansans who voted to trust women. It was a vote that will be remembered for 100 years.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Scattered showers. Partly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		Partly sunny		Partly sunny		Scattered showers. Partly sunny	
88°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:26 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just west of the Marianas waters. Satellite shows isolated showers moving in from the east. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet, mainly composed of trade-wind swell from just to the north of east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:01 PM	11:51 PM	-
Saturday	12:58 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:37 AM	1:59 PM
Monday	-	1:30 AM	3:04 PM
Tuesday	-	2:30 AM	4:10 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>				7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
				BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA						SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily	1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN						1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM						2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA						2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Solomon Islands takes tighter control over state broadcaster

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The government of the Solomon Islands has taken tighter control over the nation's state-owned broadcaster—a move opponents say is squarely aimed at controlling and censoring the news.

The government this week accused the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation of a “lack of ethics and professionalism” and said it was its duty to to “protect our people from lies and misinformation, especially when these very lies and misinformation are propagated by the national broadcaster.”

But in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Johnson Honimae, the SIBC's chief executive, said he was proud of the broad-

caster's award-winning journalism. He said it was business as usual and there were no government censors vetting stories before they were broadcast, contrary to what was being reported by some news outlets.

The government's move comes at a politically tumultuous time in the Solomon Islands.

There were riots in the capital Honiara last November, followed by a no-confidence vote in Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare in December, which he survived. Then in April, Sogavare signed a security pact with China that has caused deep alarm in the Pacific and around the world.

The SIBC has been report-



Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands attends a Lowy Institute event in Sydney, Australia, Aug. 14, 2017. **AP**

ing those developments and including the views of Sogavare's opponents.

The broadcaster, which be-

gan as the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Service, has been a fixture for 70 years in the Solomon Islands.

Employing about 50 people and operating under the slogan “Voice of the nation,” the broadcaster remains the main source of radio and television news for the nation's 700,000 people, and is listened to and watched from the capital to the smallest village.

In late June, the government moved to delist the SIBC as a state-owned enterprise and take more direct control, saying it had failed to make a profit, something which was expected of such enterprises.

Opposition Leader Matthew Wale said Wednesday the delisting was a scheme orchestrated by Sogavare as

“a clear attempt to directly control and censor the news content of SIBC.”

“This will hijack well-entrenched principles of law on defamation and freedom-of-speech, thus depriving the public using SIBC to freely express their views, or accessing information on government activities,” Wale said.

Honimae told the AP that the broadcaster had been taking calls from Sogavare's office in recent months.

“They believe we've been running too many stories from the opposition side, causing too much disunity,” Honimae said.


Honimae said the broadcaster and its staff had won several recent journalism awards, including for newsmen of the

year and journalist of the year. He said the broadcaster plays the national anthem when broadcasts begin each morning at 6 a.m. and again when they finish at 11 p.m.

“We believe we are a great force for unity and peace in this country,” Honimae said.


Honimae added that the broadcaster needed to “balance our stories more” and leave no opportunity for criticism. He said Sogavare—who is also the broadcasting minister—had said in Parliament that the government wouldn't tamper with the broadcaster's editorial independence.

“There is no censorship at the moment,” Honimae said. “We operate as professional journalists.”



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JVA No. 22 – 081

**Opening Date: August 3, 2022
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED**

<p>POSITION TITLE:</p> <p>DEPARTMENT:</p> <p>LOCATION:</p> <p>ANNUAL SALARY:</p> <p>CONTRACT:</p> <p>POSITION(S):</p>	<p>Trades Technician: Welder</p> <p>Power Generation</p> <p>Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA</p> <p>\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt</p> <p>Not Contracted</p> <p>One (1)</p>
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The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Perform all kinds of welding, brazing, and cutting using gas and electric welding equipment as assigned;
- Be able to read and interpret blueprints and machine drawings to determine specific welding requirements;
- Plans details of working procedure and tools and material requirements; Personal protection equipment needs to be work when necessary; Fabricates by cutting, burning, and welding various metals.
- Repairs equipment by using welding techniques and appropriate welding equipment;
- Select welding procedures best suited to type of work and materials involved and vary techniques to obtain proper penetration, fusion and strength, offset distortion and maintain alignment;
- Usually specializes on a specific type of certified welding and equipment, electric arc, gas or arc/gas combinations typical of methods applied to material types, but assignment may vary;
- Fit up complicated but standard structures and weldments involving a considerable number of parts and details, using the clamp and tack method or welding jigs, fixtures and turning rigs;
- Cleans and prepares surfaces to be welded;
- Set up, assembles, and tacks weld parts,
- Builds up worn or defective surfaces,
- Uses burning equipment to dismantle assemblies and to cut material to size and shape;
- Aligns, fits, and joins parts by welding;
- Determines fixtures, machines, tooling, and sequence of operations to fabricate parts according to drawings and sketches;
- Records specifications, and final dimensions of model for use in establishing operating standards and fabrication procedures;
- Consults and confers with engineering personnel to discuss developmental problems and recommend modifications to correct or improve fabrication or welding techniques;
- Devises and constructs jigs, and or modifies existing tools and equipment;
- Positions and attaches stops and drills holes to facilitate welding, using drill press and hand tools;
- Inspects and tests weldment or other fabricated works to verify conformance to specifications;
- Lays out and marks reference points and dimension on materials, using measuring instruments and drawing or scribing tools;
- Keeps equipment and work area clean and orderly;
- May be assigned to dismantle cut up obsolete machinery, setting aside parts for scrap dealer;
- Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies;
- Able to work under minimal supervision and to deadlines.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Proven welding/fabrication competency skills and certification; Completion of formal apprenticeship program or completion of in-company, three-year training program; Welding Trainings/Certifications (Bureau of Ships or U.S. Navy, etc.), High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as a Welder or related field. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing welder duties. Attention and care required to prevent injury to others when performing maintenance work.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



PROPERTY FOR SALE LOT NO. 345 R 236 NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres, the auctioneer (or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, on **August 22, 2022, at 10 a.m.**, at Rota Court House Lobby, the premises, and real estate, lying and being on **Sinapalo I. Municipality of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**, described further as follows:

Lot No. 345 R 236, containing an area of 909 square meters, as more particularly described on the DLS Check No. 345 R 05, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1984, as Document No. 84-0751 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- 1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
 - c) to reject any and all bids.
- 2. Minimum Bid.** Minimum bid for the sale of **Lot No. 345 R 236** is **Fifty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars and 00/100 (US \$56,327.00)**. All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via e-mail, or in writing by delivery to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com by **4:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time on August 19, 2022**. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The NMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. **Please contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for a bid form.**
- 3. Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than **4:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time** on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of a 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.
- 4. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
- 5. Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder:** All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Fund, the Judgment – Creditor, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.
- 6. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold **"AS IS"** and without any warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

DATED this 26th day of July 2022.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer
for NMI Retirement Fund

Business

US proposes to increase refund protections for air travelers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Transportation Department is proposing to require airlines to offer passengers a refund if their flight schedule is changed significantly or the airline makes major changes

to their itinerary.

The proposed rule announced Wednesday would require airlines to give refunds if their departure or arrival time changes by three hours or more for a domestic flight or

at least six hours for an international one.

Refunds would also be due if the airline changes the passenger's departure or arrival airport, adds stops in their itinerary, or causes "a signifi-

cant downgrade" in the travel experience by switching to a different type of plane.

The rule would apply even for travelers who buy nonrefundable tickets, which usually cost less and are favored

by many leisure travelers.

The proposal comes after the department was flooded with complaints by passengers whose flights were canceled or changed — or who were afraid to fly during the early months of the pandemic — and who couldn't get refunds.

Airlines prefer to hand out travel vouchers instead of refunds.

The department proposes to require that airlines and ticket agents give vouchers that don't expire for passengers who are told not to travel during a pandemic for health reasons or because borders are closed.

The proposal faces a public-comment period and likely opposition by airlines. Their trade group, Airlines for America, did not immediately comment.

Currently, airlines are re-

quired to offer refunds to passengers whose flights are canceled or significantly changed, but it has never defined a cancellation or significant change. Because of that, airlines have challenged the Transportation Department's authority to force them to pay refunds.

"When Americans buy an airline ticket, they should get to their destination safely, reliably, and affordably," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement. "This new proposed rule would protect the rights of travelers and help ensure they get the timely refunds they deserve from the airlines."

Consumer complaints filed with the department rose nearly seven-fold in 2020 from the year before, and 87% were about refunds.

Jack in the Box opens free-standing restaurant in Tamuning



Jack in the Box Tamuning is now open daily and offers 24-hour service with a full menu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAMUNING, Guam—Jack in the Box Inc. announced yesterday that its new free-standing restaurant, located in Tamuning along Marine Corps Drive at the corner of Jalaguac Way, is now open to the public. The new Tamuning location is one of the largest restaurant buildings in the franchise and offers an indoor dining experience, a convenient drive-through, and ample parking.

Donna Yano, vice president of Jack in the Box Hawaii and Guam, said, "It is important for Jack in the Box to provide our customers with the best experiences possible. The Tamuning free-standing restaurant provides generous space for our customers to dine in and enjoy time with family, friends, and co-workers."

Jack in the Box Tamuning, with its modern design and

Marine Corps Drive convenience, is now open daily and offers 24-hour service with a full menu.

"We are proud to offer our full menu at all times of the day. We look forward to serving those who work and live in Tamuning,

customers passing through on their way home, and filling the need for more late-night dining for our community," Yano added.

With the opening of the new Tamuning location, Jack in the Box remains committed to growing on the island and helping the people of Guam. The restaurant's current location employs more than 40 staff members, and its new location has hired over 50 em-

ployees. Jack in the Box Tamuning is also home to a new bus stop that is designed to shelter students from Guam's weather elements while ensuring the safety of those getting on and off the buses. Additionally, a new bus pull-over

» **Located on Marine Corps Drive, the company's newest location is now open to serve the community**

area on the restaurant's property will ensure safer loading and unloading of passengers while avoiding interruption of the natural traffic flow on Jalaguac Way.

For Julie Ann Coronel, restaurant manager for Jack in the Box Guam, being a good community partner is important for the Guam team.

"We want to do more for our community than serve a

great meal. We care about the people in the places where we do business. This is why we hire locally and work to make Guam a better place to live. We are happy to provide the new Marine Corps Drive bus stop where students can get to school and back home safely. We also look forward to being an afterschool stop where students can have a meal," Coronel said.

Jack in the Box extends invitation for grand opening

Jack in the Box will host a grand opening event on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11am to 1pm. This event is free to the community, with music and activities such as a Spin to Win prize wheel, face painting, and balloon art. Additionally, guests and patrons can enter a raffle giveaway for a chance to win the grand prize of \$100 Jack cash. (PR)

Musk response to Twitter lawsuit will be made public tomorrow

DOVER, Del.

(AP) — Elon

Musk's answer to Twitter's lawsuit over his attempt to back out of a \$44 billion deal to buy the social media company will be made public by Friday evening at the latest, a judge



Musk

ruled Wednesday. Attorneys for Musk wanted to file a public version of their answer and counterclaims in Delaware court Wednesday. But Twitter attorneys complained that they needed more time to review and potentially redact Musk's sealed filing, saying it refers "extensively" to internal Twitter information and data given to Musk.

Chancellor Kathaleen St. Jude McCormick held a quick teleconference Wednesday before agreeing with Twitter, directing that the public filing be docketed by 5 p.m. Friday. It could be filed earlier depending on when Twitter attorneys complete their review.

Twitter attorneys argued that court rules require that five business days lapse before a public version of Musk's filing is docketed.

"Few cases attract as much public interest as this one, and Twitter is mindful of this court's commitment to ensuring maximum public access to its proceedings," Twitter attorney Kevin Shannon wrote. "Twitter has no interest in proposing any

more redactions to defendants' responsive pleading than are necessary."

Musk attorney Edward Micheletti argued that Twitter's lawyers were misinterpreting the court rules. Musk at-

orneys also say there is no confidential information in Musk's filing that should be withheld from the public.

"Twitter should not be permitted to continue burying the side of the story it does not want publicly disclosed," Micheletti wrote.

Musk, the world's richest man, agreed in April to buy Twitter and take it private, offering \$54.20 a share and vowing to loosen the company's policing of content and to root out fake accounts.

Twitter shares closed Wednesday at \$41, well off a 52-week high of \$69.81.

Musk, indicated in July that he wanted to back away from the deal, prompting Twitter to file a lawsuit to hold him to the "seller-friendly" agreement.

Musk says Twitter has failed to provide him enough information about the number of fake accounts on its service. Twitter argues that Musk, CEO of electric car maker and solar energy company Tesla Inc., is deliberately trying to tank the deal because market conditions have deteriorated and the acquisition no longer serves his interests.

White House: Falling gas prices mean more than OPEC numbers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden traveled to Saudi Arabia last month on the possibility that he could get some additional oil production out of OPEC+ in coming weeks, but the cartel and other nations announced a scant increase Wednesday.

The White House responded by stressing that what matters is the steady decline in oil and gasoline prices from summer highs, not the actions taken by OPEC+ to pump an

additional 100,000 barrels of oil in September. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre noted that the decline began June 14, the day the administration disclosed plans for Biden's trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

"The fact of the matter is that oil and gas prices are coming down," Jean-Pierre told reporters at her briefing. "The moment he announced his trip we saw gas prices and oil prices coming down."

While there may be a correlation, it is unclear whether the announced trip caused prices to decline. Oil prices can be determined by a wide range of factors including changes in supply, the pace of economic growth, geopolitical events and extreme weather.

Behind Jean-Pierre in the briefing room was a blue chart that showed a 17% drop in average U.S. gas costs since prices peaked at about \$5 a

gallon. AAA puts the current national average at \$4.16 a gallon. Crude oil prices fell Wednesday to just below \$91 a barrel, down from more than \$120 in early June.

Still, gas prices are 31% above their level last year, frustrating voters ahead of the midterm elections and heightening concerns about an economic downturn in the U.S. and Europe as central banks try to get inflation under control.

Nation

Firefighters partially surround deadly California fire

KLAMATH RIVER, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters have gotten their first hold on California’s deadliest and most destructive fire of the year and expected that the blaze would remain stalled through the weekend.

The McKinney Fire near the Oregon border was 10% contained as of Wednesday night and bulldozers and hand crews were making progress carving firebreaks around much of the rest of the blaze, fire officials said at a community meeting.

The southeastern corner of the blaze above the Siskiyou County seat of Yreka, which has about 7,800 residents, was contained. Evacuation orders for sections of the town and Hawkinsville were downgraded to warnings, allowing people to return home but with a warning that the situation remained dangerous.

About 1,300 residents remained under evacuation orders, officials said.

The fire didn’t advance on Wednesday, following several days of brief but heavy rain from thunderstorms that provided cloudy, damper weather.

“This is a sleeping giant right now,” said Darryl Laws, a unified incident commander on the blaze.

In addition, firefighters expected Thursday to fully surround a 1,000-acre (404-hectare) spot fire on the northern edge of the McKinney Fire.

The fire broke out last Friday and has charred nearly 90 square miles (233 square kilometers) of forestland, left tinder-dry by drought. More than 100 homes and other buildings have burned and four bodies have been found, including two in a burned car in a driveway.

The blaze was driven at first by fierce winds ahead of a thunderstorm cell. More storms earlier this week proved a mixed blessing. A drenching rain Tuesday dumped up to 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) on some eastern sections of the blaze but most of the fire area got next to nothing, said Dennis Burns, a fire behavior analyst.

The latest storm also brought concerns about possible river flooding and mudslides. A private contractor in a pickup truck who was aiding the firefighting effort was hurt when a bridge gave out and washed away the vehicle, Kreider said. The contractor had non-life-threatening injuries, she said.

However, no weather events were forecast for the next three or four days that could give the fire “legs,” Burns said.

The good news came too late for many people in the scenic hamlet of Klamath River, which was home to about 200 people before the fire reduced many of the homes to ashes, along with the post office, community center and other buildings.

Jurors to visit still bloodstained Parkland school building

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Jurors in the trial of Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz are expected to walk through the still blood-spattered rooms of Parkland’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Thursday in a visit to the three-story building where he murdered 14 students and three staff members four years ago.

The seven-man, five-woman jury and 10 alternates will be bused under heavy security the 30 miles (48 kilometers) from the Broward County Courthouse in downtown Fort Lauderdale to the suburban school. Law enforcement plans to seal off the area around the school and aircraft may be barred from flying overhead to prevent protesters from interrupting the proceedings and to protect the jurors’ safety.

The panelists and their law enforcement escorts will be accompanied into the building by Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer, prosecutors and Cruz’s attorneys. Cruz will not be present, according to one of his attorneys. Prosecutors, who are winding up their case, are hoping the visit will help prove that the former Stoneman Douglas student’s actions were cold, calculated, heinous and cruel; created a great risk of death to many people and “interfered with a government function”—all aggravating factors under Florida’s capital punishment law.

Alex Jones concedes Sandy Hook attack was ‘100% real’

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—For years, bombastic far-right conspiracy theorist Alex Jones ranted to his millions of followers that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax, that children weren’t killed and that parents were crisis actors in an elaborate ruse to force gun control.

Under oath and facing a jury that could hit him with \$150 million or more in damages for his false claims, Jones said Wednesday he now realizes that was irresponsible and believes that what happened in the deadliest school shooting in American history was “100% real.”



Jones’ public contrition came on the final day of testimony in a two-week defamation lawsuit against him and his Austin-based media company, Free Speech Systems, brought by Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, the parents of 6-year-old Jesse Lewis. Their son was a first grader who was among the 20 students and six teachers killed at the school in Newtown, Connecticut, on Dec. 14, 2012.

“I unintentionally took part in things that did hurt these people’s feelings,” said Jones, who also acknowledged raising conspiracy claims about other mass tragedies, from the Oklahoma City and Boston Marathon bombings to the mass shootings in Las Vegas and Parkland, Florida, “and I’m sorry for that.”

But an apology isn’t enough for Heslin and Lewis. They said Jones and the media empire he controls and used to spread his false assertions must be held accountable.



Jones



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-22-030

Underground Power Distribution Systems

to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Phase I

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed Architectural & Engineering (A/E) Services Proposal from qualified firms to design an underground power distribution system from the CUC Power Plant 1 Facility to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). When fully functioning, the infrastructure is designed to distribute uninterrupted power to the CHCC during tropical storms or typhoon events and following natural disasters such that the CNMI's only public owned healthcare facility is able to provide healthcare services to the CNMI's people. The RAESP project is the first step of a phase approach process in determining the cost benefits of constructing a dedicated underground power distribution system. The design of the infrastructure will convey the feasibility of this FEMA investment in delivering uninterrupted power to the CHCC during tropical storms or typhoon events and following natural disasters.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained via email between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$300.00 for one RFP package set. **To register for the RAESP, please contact Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal; and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separately sealed envelope marked “CUC-RAESP-22-030, Underground Power Distribution Systems to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RAESP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This RAESP does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC’s Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crocket, CUC Power Division Chief Engineer via email address anne.crocket@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.



CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JVA No. 22 – 063

Opening Date: August 2, 2022
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

POSITION TITLE:	Direct Responsible Charge “DRC”, aka Trades Supervisor
DEPARTMENT:	Water Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$32,161.00 to \$43,417.00 per annum, Non Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Supervises in the installation, repair and maintenance of water mains and other associated components including hydrants, meters, water tanks, water service lines, valves and pumps;
- Supervises and trains employees in the operation of appropriate motor and other equipment including back hoes, trucks, trenchers, boom trucks, drills, tapping machines, and locating devices;
- Assists in the coordination and inspection of work performed by contractors and engineers;
- Supervises in the preventative maintenance, service and repair activities of the water distribution vehicles and equipment;
- Supervises in the repair of leaks in mains and water service installations;
- Supervises in the taking of routine water samples for water quality testing;
- Ensures compliance with policies, procedures, safety guidelines, schedules and work specifications;
- Assigns, schedules and verifies completed work involved in the repair and maintenance of a water distribution system;
- May assist in the preparation of the departmental budget;
- Maintains accurate records and prepares reports, such as status reports, diagrams, field logs and requisitions;
- Calculates proper ratio of chlorine to water based on formula’s specific to water chlorination;
- Responds to customer’s inquiries and complaints regarding water service.
- Assignment of work orders to field staff and tracking of completed work.
- Conducts staff’s performance evaluations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned. Minimum Requirements:

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS, and 5 years of experience in assigned area of responsibility and 2 years’ experience in a supervisory capacity; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
- o Water Distribution Operator Certification Level 3
- o Water Treatment Operator Certification Level 3

Physical Demands:

- o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Asia

S.E. Asia urges US and China to avoid provocation over Taiwan

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is calling for calm in the Taiwan Strait, urging against any “provocative action” in the wake of a visit to Taipei by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that has infuriated Beijing.

In a rare statement on such issues from the 10-nation group, some of whose members drift more toward China in allegiance and some toward the United States, ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia said Thursday that they were concerned the situation could “destabilize the region and eventually could lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences among major powers.”

Both U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi were taking part in the ongoing ASEAN meetings in Phnom Penh on Thursday and Friday.

Pelosi received a euphoric welcome as the first U.S. House speaker, and highest

ranking U.S. official, to visit Taiwan in more than 25 years, and China swiftly responded by announcing multiple military exercises nearby.

China claims the self-governing island of Taiwan as its territory and opposes any engagement by Taiwanese officials with foreign governments.

Beijing has accused the U.S. of breaking the status quo with the Pelosi visit, while the U.S. insists there has been no change to its “one-China” position of recognizing the government in Beijing, while allowing for informal relations and defense ties with Taipei.

On the other side, with China’s recent increase in military activities around Taiwan, Washington accuses Beijing of no longer accepting the status quo.

Shortly after Pelosi landed Tuesday night, China announced live-fire drills that reportedly started that night, as well as the four-day exercises starting Thursday. The People’s Liberation Army Air Force

also flew a contingent of 21 warplanes toward Taiwan.

Meantime, the U.S. has an aircraft carrier group and other naval assets in the region.

In their statement, the ASEAN foreign ministers called for “maximum restraint” and for all sides to “refrain from provocative action.”

“The world is in dire need of wisdom and responsibility of all leaders to uphold multilateralism and partnership, cooperation, peaceful-coexistence and healthy competition for our shared goals of peace, stability, security and inclusive and sustainable development,” they said.

“We should act together and ASEAN stands ready to play a constructive role in facilitating peaceful dialogue between all parties including through utilizing ASEAN-led mechanisms to deescalate tension, to safeguard peace, security and development in our region.”

ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

China says military drills surrounding Taiwan underway

BEIJING (AP)—China says military exercises by its navy, air force and other departments are underway in six zones surrounding Taiwan.

The drills were prompted by a visit to the island by Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi this week and are intended to advertise China’s threat to attack the self-governing island republic in response to moves to solidify its de facto independence from Chinese

rule with support from key ally the U.S.

China’s official Xinhua News Agency said the exercises were joint operations focused on “blockade, sea target assault, strike on ground targets, and airspace control.” Taiwan has put its military on alert and staged civil defense drills, while the U.S. has numerous naval assets in the area.

The drills are due to run from Thursday to Sunday

and include missile strikes on targets in the seas north and south of the island in an echo of the last major Chinese military drills aimed at intimidating Taiwan’s leaders and voters held in 1995 and 1996.

The exercises involved troops from the Navy, Air Force, Rocket Force, Strategic Support Force and Logistic Support Force under the Eastern Theater Command.

to launch its largest military maneuvers aimed at Taiwan in more than a quarter of a century in response. After visiting Taiwan, Pelosi and other members of Congress flew to South Korea—a key U.S. ally where about 28,500 American troops are deployed—on Wednesday evening, as part of an Asian tour that included stops in Singapore and Malaysia. After South Korea, they will travel to Japan. On Thursday, Pelosi met South Korean National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin Pyo and other senior members of Parliament for talks on regional security, economic cooperation and climate issues.

child and that the attacker is believed to have been armed with a knife.

After Taiwan, Pelosi meets political leaders in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met top South Korean political leaders on Thursday, a day after she concluded her high-profile visit to Taiwan by renewing Washington’s “ironclad” commitment to defending democracy on the self-governing island despite vehement protests from China. Regional tensions are rising following Pelosi’s Taiwan trip, with China preparing

World

UN fact-finding mission will probe Ukraine prison killings



In this photo taken from video a view of destroyed barrack at a prison in Olenivka, in an area controlled by Russian-backed separatist forces, eastern Ukraine, on July 29, 2022. AP

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations chief said Wednesday he is appointing a fact-finding mission in response to requests from Russia and Ukraine to investigate the killings at a prison in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine that the warring nations accuse each other of carrying out.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters he doesn’t have authority to conduct criminal investigations but does have authority to conduct fact-finding missions, and the terms of reference for a mission to Ukraine are currently being prepared and will be sent to the governments of Ukraine and Russia for approval.

Russia claimed that

Ukraine’s military used U.S.-supplied rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People’s Republic. Separatist authorities and Russian officials said the attack killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75.

The Ukrainian military denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka. The intelligence arm of the Ukrainian defense ministry claimed in a statement Wednesday to have evidence that local Kremlin-backed separatists colluded with the Russian FSB, the KGB’s main successor agency, and mercenary group Wagner to mine the barrack before “using a flammable substance, which led to the rapid spread

of fire in the room.”

The Ukrainian military on Tuesday likewise claimed that the barrack had been blown up from the inside, citing the nature of damage which it said was inconsistent with Russian claims that Ukraine had shelled the building. It was not immediately possible to verify these claims.

Secretary-General Guterres said he took the requests from Russia and Ukraine for a U.N. investigation of last Friday’s deadly incident “very seriously” and expressed hope that both countries will agree to the terms of reference. At the same time, he said, the U.N. is looking for “competent, independent people” to take part in the mission.

WORLD BRIEFS

Prime minister resigns, adding to political turmoil in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru’s prime minister announced his resignation Wednesday, adding to political uncertainty in the South American nation as President Pedro Castillo faces several criminal investigations after only a year in office. In a letter to the president posted on his Twitter account, Aníbal Torres said he was giving up the post “for personal reasons.” Castillo, who under the law can accept or reject the resignation, made no comment. Torres was Castillo’s fourth prime minister, having taken the post in February. Previously, he had been justice minister since Castillo took office July 28, 2021.

Journalist, 3 others killed in Mexico; 13th this year

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A journalist was among four people killed inside a beer shop in central Mexico, the 13th media worker killed in the country this year. San Luis de la Paz Mayor Luis Sánchez said Ernesto Méndez, director of the news site Tu Voz, or Your Voice, was with four other men when they were attacked. The fifth person was seriously wounded and taken to a hospital, he said. Guanajuato Gov. Diego Rodríguez Vallejo condemned the Tuesday night killings via Twitter Wednesday. Sánchez said that at this point it was unknown whether the attack was related to Méndez’s journalistic work, his role as representative of local businesses in the planning of an upcoming fair or something else.

9 coal miners trapped after collapse in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A cave-in at a coal mine in northern Mexico trapped nine miners Wednesday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said. The president tweeted that the accident happened in the town of Sabinas in the border state of Coahuila. He said 92 soldiers, specialists and four dogs were at the scene assisting rescue efforts. The Coahuila state government said in a statement that the collapse occurred after the miners breached a neighboring area filled with water. The mine began operations this year, and the local government said it had not received any complaints or reports of previous incidents. Sabinas is about 70 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suspect arrested in China kindergarten attack that killed 3

BEIJING (AP)—Police in southern China have arrested a 47-year-old man suspected of an attack that killed three people and injured six others at a kindergarten in Jiangxi province. Liu Xiaohui was arrested at 10:50 p.m. on Wednesday, about 12 hours after the morning attack, the Anfu county police said in a statement. He had fled and gone into hiding, the statement said. Police did not provide any information on the identity and ages of the victims. China’s Global Times newspaper reported that at least one victim was a

Off The Wall

Utah man accused of causing wildfire by burning a spider

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah man has been arrested on accusations he started a wildfire while trying to burn a spider with his lighter.

Cory Allan Martin, 26, told deputies that he spotted the spider Monday while he was in a hiking area in the foothills south of Salt Lake City near the city of Springville, shows a probable cause statement. He acknowledged starting the

fire, but didn't explain why he was trying to burn the spider.

Deputies found a jar of marijuana in his belongings, but he didn't appear to be high, said Utah County Sheriff's Sgt. Spencer Cannon.

There is no evidence to suggest he intentionally started the blaze, said Cannon, but he called it a reckless and puzzling decision. This area and most of Utah are bone dry amid ex-



treme drought conditions.

"What led him to stop and notice a spider and decide to try to burn it, we don't know," Cannon said. "There may not be a why. He might not even know a why."

Martin was arrested on suspicion of reckless burn and

Firefighters battle a wildfire from the ground as a helicopter drops water above them in Springville on Monday, Aug. 1, 2022. AP

possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, court documents show.

He was in the Utah County jail Tuesday on nearly \$2,000 bail. It was unknown if he had an attorney.

The wildfire quickly spread up the mountain and had burned less than 1 square mile (1 square kilometer) as of Tuesday, according to fire officials. No homes had been damaged.

'Guard cat' prevents would-be robbery

BELDEN, Miss (AP)—A Mississippi man said his pet cat helped prevent a robbery at his home, and he credits the calico with possibly saving his life.

Bandit, a 20-pound (9.1-kilogram) cat, lives with her retired owner Fred Everitt in the Tupelo suburb of Belden. When at least two people tried to break into their shared home last week, the cat did everything she could to alert Everitt of the danger, he told the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. "You hear of guard dogs," said Everitt, 68. "This is a guard cat."

The attempted robbery occurred sometime between 2:30 and 3 a.m. on July 25, Everitt said. He was first awakened by Bandit's meows in the kitchen. Then, she raced into the bedroom, jumped onto the bed and began pulling the

comforter off of him and clawing at his arms. Everitt knew something was wrong.

"She had never done that before," Everitt said. "I went, 'What in the world is wrong with you?'"

Everitt got up to investigate and saw two young men outside his back door. One had a handgun, and the other was using a crowbar to try and pry the door open, he said.

Everitt said by the time he retrieved a handgun and returned to the kitchen, the would-be intruders had already fled. Everitt told the newspaper that he did not call the police.

He said the situation could have been different without Bandit.

"It did not turn into a confrontational situation, thank goodness," Everitt said. "But I think it's only because of the cat."

Albuquerque road sign spelled without 'R'

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—It made drivers on Route 66 and Interstate 40 in New Mexico do double takes.

A newly upgraded state Department of Transportation sign erected last week that pointed drivers toward Albuquerque misspelled the city's name, losing the "R."

People called and emailed the department to point out the mistake on the sign visible to drivers on the parallel highways, said Kimberly Gallegos,

a department spokesperson.

A corrected sign went up this week, she said.

"I do not recall this happening before," Gallegos said. "But I honestly think this was just a simple mistake."

Albuquerque used to have another "R" in its name. According to the city's website, colonists were granted permission in 1706 by King Philip of Spain to establish a new community on the banks of the Rio Grande.

Jumping humpback lands on boat; no one hurt

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP)—Boaters and whale watchers off Massachusetts got a surprise over the weekend when a humpback whale breached and landed on the bow of a 19-foot vessel.

The boat operator reported no injuries and no damage that affected the seaworthiness of the vessel, according to officials in Plymouth, on Cape Cod Bay.

Several boats were around the whale Sunday when it made the jump. Video footage shows it launching its body out of the water and its head slamming onto the front of a boat, tipping the rear of the vessel out of the water as it slid

back into the ocean.

Humpback whales can grow up to 62 feet long and weight up to 53 tons. They are popular with whale watchers because of their acrobatic displays — including spectacular breaching in which they launch their school-bus-size bodies entirely out of the water and slap the surface with their pectoral fins or tails.

The Plymouth harbor master said collisions like that off Plymouth are rare and can be dangerous for both boaters and whales. The harbor master recommends that boaters stay at least 100 yards from humpbacks to minimize such meetings.

Fourth Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

†Francisco
"Tan Ko"
Muna Palacios

July 14, 1929 – August 14, 2018

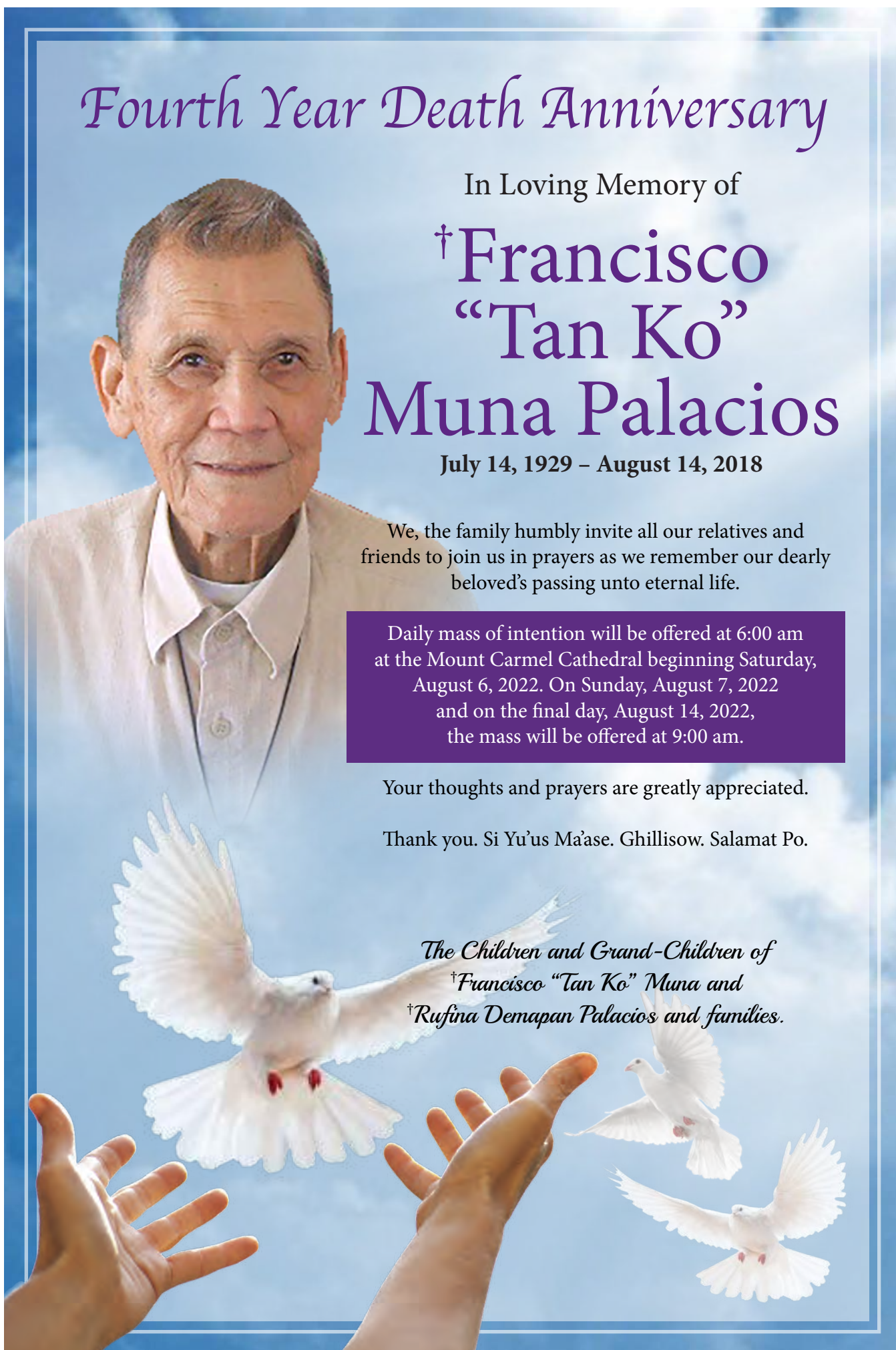
We, the family humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we remember our dearly beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass of intention will be offered at 6:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning Saturday, August 6, 2022. On Sunday, August 7, 2022 and on the final day, August 14, 2022, the mass will be offered at 9:00 am.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you. Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Ghillisow. Salamat Po.

*The Children and Grand-Children of
†Francisco "Tan Ko" Muna and
†Rufina Demapan Palacios and families.*



Science & Technology

Facebook is in trouble. Its escape plan: Turn into TikTok

By BRIAN CONTRERAS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Aging tech products often suffer from what's known as feature creep: excessive complexity caused by the accretion of bells and whistles over the years.

Log into Facebook (launched in 2004) or Instagram (launched in 2010) these days and every available pixel seems to offer up a different feature, function, tool or interface, many of them cloned from newer, buzzier competitors.

This everything-to-everyone approach might leave one with the impression that Meta Platforms—the recently rebranded umbrella company that oversees Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp—lacks a clear vision for its flagship apps.

But on an earnings call with investors Wednesday afternoon, Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg outlined a straightforward mission statement for Facebook and Instagram: They're both TikTok now.

Not that he said so outright. But the trajectory he mapped out for both apps, toward an experience dominated by

algorithm-suggested video content, is one that will bring them more in line with the ByteDance-owned video app that has rapidly become their fiercest competitor—even if their users would explicitly prefer otherwise.

TikTok nipping at its heels isn't the only reason the company reported its first-ever year-over-year quarterly revenue decline in the earnings report accompanying Zuckerberg's call. An Apple privacy feature introduced last year that makes it harder to monetize and the ongoing war in Ukraine have combined to put the firm in a tough spot.

But it was Reels, Instagram's TikTok-knockoff feature, and other TikTok-inspired pivots that Zuckerberg emphasized in his call as offering hope for the future.

"One of the main transformations in our business right now is that social feeds are going from being driven primarily by the people and accounts you follow to increasingly also be-

ing driven by AI recommending content that you'll find interesting from across Facebook or Instagram," Zuckerberg said. "Reels is one part of this trend that focuses on the growth of short-form video as a content format, but this overall AI trend is much broader and covers all types of content."

"Right now, about 15% of content in a person's Facebook feed, and a little more than that of their Instagram feed, is recommended by our AI," he added. "We expect these numbers to more than double by the end of next year."

People spent over 30% more time watching Reels in the company's most recent quarter, Zuckerberg said, and the company has now "crossed a \$1-billion annual revenue run rate for Reels ads."

Even before Zuckerberg doubled down on it Wednesday, the increasing TikTokification of Instagram was stirring users' ire.

"Make Instagram Instagram again," urged one viral post that both Kylie Jenner and Kim Kar-

dashian, two of the platform's biggest influencers, shared. "Stop trying to be TikTok."

A Change.org petition demanding the return of chronologically arranged content feeds and a reemphasis on still photography, created by the same Instagrammer who made the viral post, has now amassed more than 200,000 signatures.

In a video addressing back-

lash to the recent changes, Adam Mosseri, head of the platform, said that although Instagram will continue to support still photography, "more and more of Instagram is going to become video." Mosseri also framed the introduction of more recommended content into users' feeds as a way to help smaller content creators find an audience.

It's not the first time Meta

has aped a competitor's innovation. In 2016, the company sought to fend off a threat from Snapchat by adding disappearing "Stories" to Instagram; it later expanded the feature to Facebook and WhatsApp. And it's also not the first time the company has tried to orchestrate a top-down pivot to video—a tactic that, in the past, proved disastrous for many publishers.

Can the bacteria in your gut boost cancer therapies? A San Diego startup thinks so

By Mike Freeman
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

San Diego's Persephone Biosciences, a startup working on cancer therapies and precision probiotics based on the gut microbiome, has landed \$15 million in early stage seed investment.

Founded five years ago by former employees of local synthetic biology outfit Genomatica, Persephone will use the funds to advance two pre-clinical studies — one focused on cancer and the other on infants.

In addition, the funding aims to jumpstart the 11-employee firm's own data-driven technology platform for developing oncology treatments and over-the-counter microbiome products.

"I think of the microbiome as the gatekeeper of our immune system," said Stephanie

Culler, chief executive and co-founder of Persephone. "It is essentially the collection of microbes that line our gastrointestinal tract and serve to promote normal immune function to prevent disease. Eighty percent of our immune cells are in our gut, so the type of microbes that we have are important to having robust immune health."

The cancer study, named Argonaut, is targeting 4,000 people to identify biomarkers in the gut microbiome. Participants are being enrolled in 30 sites, and the study involves a range of cancer types. In December, Janssen Biotech — an arm of Johnson & Johnson — agreed to collaborate with Persephone on the colorectal cancer arm of the study.

The goal is to develop microbiome therapeutics that interact with the immune system and could be taken in conjunction with certain anti-cancer

treatments to fight the disease, said Culler.

"We are really looking to have a comprehensive data-set that understands the function of the microbiome in these oncology patients to develop the next generation of microbiome therapies," she said.

The infant study is pending. It hopes to profile 600 newborns over several years, looking at their microbiome, along with other information such as the circumstances of birth and whether they were breastfed.

"The issue here, and it is becoming a multi-generational worldwide problem, is many babies today are being born without the right microbes to train their immune systems to help prevent disease," said Culler. "And that is one of the contributors as to why we are seeing such a large increase in food allergies and other issues."

FTC acts to block Meta from buying VR company, fitness app

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Wednesday took legal action to block Facebook parent Meta and CEO Mark Zuckerberg from acquiring virtual reality company Within Unlimited and its fitness app Supernatural, asserting the deal would hurt competition and violate antitrust laws.

Experts said it was the Federal Trade Commission's first legal challenge to a Big Tech merger.

The FTC filed a complaint in federal court in San Francisco against the tech giant based in Menlo Park, California, and its high-profile CEO seeking a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the proposed acquisition.

The regulators said that Meta already is a key player "at each level of the virtual reality sector," owning the top-selling device, a leading app store, seven of the most successful developers in the sphere and one of the best-selling apps of all time.

The FTC alleged that Meta and Zuckerberg plan to expand that VR empire by attempting to illegally acquire a dedicated fitness app.

Under Zuckerberg's leadership, Meta began a campaign to conquer virtual reality in 2014 with its acquisition of headset maker Oculus VR. Since then, Meta's VR headsets have become the cornerstone of its growth in the virtual reality space, according to the complaint. Fueled by the popularity of its top-selling Quest headsets, Meta's Quest Store has become a leading U.S. app platform with more than 400 apps available to download, it says.

Meta rejected the regulators' claims.

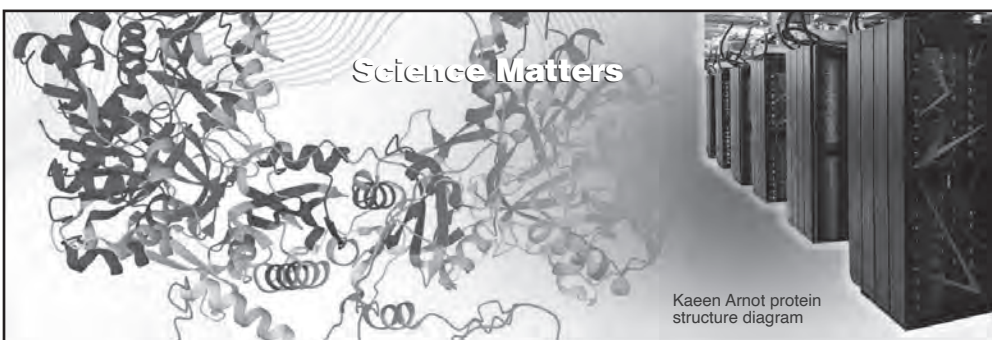
"The FTC's case is based on ideology and speculation, not evidence," the company said in a statement. "By attacking this deal ... the FTC is sending a chilling message to anyone who wishes to innovate in VR. We are confident that our acquisition of Within will be

good for people, developers and the VR space."

The FTC vote to block the acquisition was 3-2, with Chair Lina Khan and the other two Democratic commissioners approving it and the two Republicans opposed.

The action marked a new FTC salvo against Meta — the owner of Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp in addition to Facebook — in the agency's drive against what it views as anticompetitive conduct in the tech industry. The FTC filed a landmark antitrust lawsuit against Facebook in late 2020, as the government pursued its most significant attempt to buttress competition since its historic case against Microsoft two decades ago.

In the broad antitrust suit, the FTC is seeking remedies that could include a forced spinoff of the popular Instagram and WhatsApp messaging services, or a restructuring of the company. Its core theory is that Meta is a monopoly engaging in anticompetitive conduct.



Computer probes the protein world

The artificial intelligence program AlphaFold has predicted the 3-D structures of 992,000 different plant and animal proteins, including all of the 20,000 human protein molecules.

Proteins: Folded-up chains of amino acids



A cell contains **thousands of different proteins**, each with a unique function — and a unique structure

Each protein molecule is a 3-dimensional structure of smaller **amino acid molecules**

There are only **20 different amino acids**, the building blocks of proteins

Decoding protein structure

1 The starting point for working out a protein's structure is its single-file **sequence** of amino acids

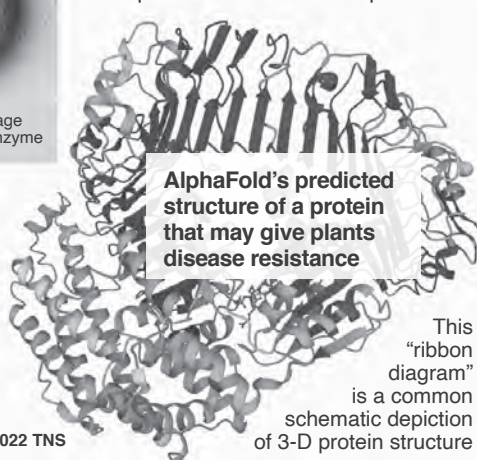
Proteins from the same evolutionary family with similar sequences can have similar structures



3 Structure prediction, a recent technique that avoids laborious standard procedures, bases its computations entirely on a protein's amino acid sequence

2 A few techniques can directly observe the protein's structure:

- An **X-ray beam** can produce images of crystallized protein molecules
- **Cryo-EM** uses an electron microscope to observe frozen protein molecules



Source: DeepMind; European Molecular Biology Laboratory; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2022 TNS

Life & Style

Suspect mistakenly freed in Lady Gaga's dog theft recaptured

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A suspect mistakenly released from a Los Angeles County jail where he was being held on suspicion of shooting Lady Gaga's dog walker and stealing her French bulldogs has been recaptured, authorities said.

James Howard Jackson, 19, was arrested Wednesday nearly five months after he was released from jail while awaiting trial "due to a clerical error," the county Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

Jackson was one of five

people arrested in connection with the Feb. 24, 2021, attack in Hollywood.

Last month, the U.S. Marshals Service announced a reward up to \$5,000 for information leading to his arrest.

Jackson's arrest comes as one of three men charged in the case pleaded no contest to second-degree robbery.

Jaylin Keyshawn White, 20, was immediately sentenced to four years in state prison, Deputy District Attorney Michele Hanisee told NBC4.

Prosecutors said Jackson and two other alleged gang members had driven around looking for expensive French bulldogs to steal, then spotted, tailed and robbed Ryan Fischer as he walked Lady Gaga's dogs near the famed Sunset Boulevard. Fischer was with the pop star's three dogs named Asia, Koji and Gustav.

During a violent struggle, Fischer was hit, choked and then shot in an attack captured by the doorbell camera of a nearby home.

The video captured Fischer screaming, "Oh, my God! I've been shot!" and "Help me!" and "I'm bleeding out from my chest!"

Fischer lost part of a lung. About a month after the crime, he posted on Instagram that his recovering has gone well.

The pop star's dogs were returned two days later by a woman who claimed she had found them tied to a pole and asked about Lady Gaga's offer of a \$500,000 reward if the dogs were returned "no questions

asked." The singer was in Rome at the time filming a movie.

The woman was charged with receiving stolen property and the father of another suspect is charged with helping him avoid arrest.

Jackson already had been

charged in the attack and had pleaded not guilty when the county district attorney's office filed a superseding indictment that charged him with attempted murder, conspiracy to commit a robbery and assault with a semi-automatic firearm.

Driver gets one year in jail in death of Nicki Minaj's father

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—The driver in a hit-and-run crash that killed the father of rapper Nicki Minaj last year was sentenced Wednesday to a year in jail, in keeping with a promise the judge made when the man pleaded guilty in May.

Charles Plevich, who pleaded guilty to leaving the scene and tampering with evidence in the crash on New York's Long Island that killed Robert Maraj, was also or-

dered to pay a \$5,000 fine and had his driver's license suspended for six months.

Plevich's lawyer, Marc Gann, suggested his client may have had a medical issue at the time of the crash and that he wasn't fully aware of what had happened when he fled.

Plevich, 72, said in court that he's "been heartsick since realizing the extent of the tragedy" and that there was "no excuse" for his behavior.

Warner Bros. axes 'Batgirl,' won't release \$90M HBO Max film

NEW YORK (AP)—In a highly unusual move that rattled Hollywood, Warner Bros. axed the "Batgirl" film planned for HBO Max, opting to shelve the \$90 million film as the reorganized studio revamps its approach to streaming and DC Comics films.

The studio ultimately decided the nearly completed "Batgirl" didn't merit either a streaming debut or a theatrical release. Warner Bros. instead is choosing to entirely write off the film starring "In the Heights"

star Leslie Grace as Batgirl and co-starring Michael Keaton (returning as Batman), J.K. Simmons and Brendan Fraser. It was directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah. Production wrapped in April.

Warner Bros.' decision, one without any obvious parallel in recent Hollywood history, sent shockwaves through the industry. When a movie doesn't meet a studio's expectations, it's typically sold off or dumped quietly with little fanfare. "Batgirl," greenlit before WarnerMedia's

merger with Discovery Inc., will instead simply not see the light of day.

"The decision to not release Batgirl reflects our leadership's strategic shift as it relates to the DC universe and HBO Max," a Warner Bros. spokesperson said in a statement, adding that Grace is "an incredibly talented actor and this decision is not a reflection of her performance."

The filmmakers learned of the studio's decision shortly before the story broke late Tuesday. An early cut of "Bat-

girl" had recently undergone one test screening. And while its scores weren't good, poor test results haven't been infrequent for Warner Bros.' DC releases nor has post-production drama. Zack Snyder's "Justice League" was recut and reshot by Joss Whedon before a fan campaign led to the eventual HBO Max release of an edit by Snyder. The badly received 2016 "Suicide Squad" was followed by James Gunn's similarly titled 2021 relaunch "The Suicide Squad."

Rapper Mystikal, accused of rape, denied bond by judge

GONZALES, La. (AP)—A Louisiana judge has refused to set any bond for rapper Mystikal, who is accused of raping and choking a woman at his home outside Baton Rouge.

State District Judge Steven Tureau ruled on Tuesday that evidence against 51-year-old Michael Tyler, his past history and the victim's fears met the standard for holding him without bail, The Advocate reported.

Tyler served six years in

prison after pleading guilty in 2003 to sexual battery. In December 2020, prosecutors in Caddo Parish, in northwest Louisiana, dropped rape and kidnapping charges that had kept him jailed for 18 months.

He was not convicted of other charges, including marijuana possession and misdemeanor domestic



Mystikal

violence, that had been brought against him since the mid-1990s, the newspaper reported.

Defense attorney Roy Maughan Jr., who had asked for \$250,000 bond, maintained that

Tyler is innocent of the most recent charges, including rape and domestic abuse battery by

strangulation. But he told the newspaper after the hearing that Tyler probably won't appeal the bond ruling.

Maughan tried unsuccessfully to get the court record to reflect that Tyler made all of his court dates in those cases and, as a celebrity, would have a hard time evading capture if he fled. He had been released on \$3 million bond in February 2019, nearly two years before the Caddo Parish charges were dropped.

Dolly Parton among Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy winners

NEW YORK (AP)—Country superstar Dolly Parton, who made a big donation to help fund coronavirus vaccine research in 2020, is among this year's Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy recipients.



Parton

Also being honored are Dallas entrepreneur Lyda Hill, Kenyan industrialist Manu Chandaria, and Lynn and Stacy Schusterman, from the Oklahoma investment family.

The award, presented by the international family of Carnegie institutions to honor innovative philanthropists, debuted in 2001

and is normally awarded every two years. It was not issued in 2021 due to the pandemic.

The 2022 honorees will receive their medals in a private ceremony in New York on Oct. 13. A priority of the ceremony is foster-

ing personal meetings to encourage the exchange of ideas and spur potential collaboration — something this year's honorees have already done, said Eric Isaacs, president of the Carnegie Institution for Science and a member of the medal selection committee.

Employee wants to turn the page on mandatory book club

DEAR ABBY: I have worked for the same company for 20 years. For the last eight years, I was part of an office book club, mostly because I was pressured regularly by the boss to participate. The members were mostly a clique of "mean girls." I never felt a part of it or comfortable, but I pushed through the once-a-month meetings to keep the peace. When COVID sent everyone home to work the past two years, the book club was over, or so I thought, hoped and prayed. As things are loosening up now, though, the pressure is mounting again. I do not want to return to that routine, but the powers that be don't seem to accept any excuse or reason. After 24 months of freedom, forcing me back into it is causing great anxiety. What would you advise me to say or do to be left out of this without antagonizing the boss?

WANNA-BE-DROPOUT

DEAR WANNA-BE-DROPOUT: If you really feel your job is in jeopardy if you refuse to participate in the book club, start looking for other employment. Tell your boss you are no longer interested in participating because reading those books interferes with your personal time and, since the COVID disruption, you have developed other interests. Then suggest another person be chosen if a quorum is required.

DEAR ABBY: The letter signed "Redo in the East" (June 7), from the lady who wanted to rewrite her husband's rushed obit, caught my attention. For 18 years I was part of an American Legion Honor Guard, during which time we did more than 900 funerals. I also read the deceased veterans' obituaries. Because of this experience, I constantly advise people to write their OWN obit. After all, who knows the most about them? This accomplishes two things: First, it greatly reduces the stress on those trying to write one under difficult conditions. Second, it ensures the accuracy of the information in it. I wrote mine 20 years ago. Of course, it needs updating, but upon my demise there will be only a few blanks to fill in and it's ready to go.

VETERAN IN VIRGINIA

DEAR VETERAN: Thank you for the service you have so generously provided all these years, and for the sage advice you have shared with my readers today.

DEAR ABBY: I recently stayed in a historical inn, which had very thin walls. An occupant in the adjoining room sneezed. I heard it and wondered: "Should I say 'bless you'?" The sneeze came in the midst of conversation I had respectfully tried to avoid overhearing, but which was clearly audible. My thought was to ignore the sneeze so as not to intrude on their privacy.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



An office mate believes I should have responded to the sneeze. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

BEING POLITE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BEING POLITE: I agree with your office mate. If you had responded to the sneeze, it would have alerted your neighbors that their conversation wasn't necessarily private, which would have done them a favor.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

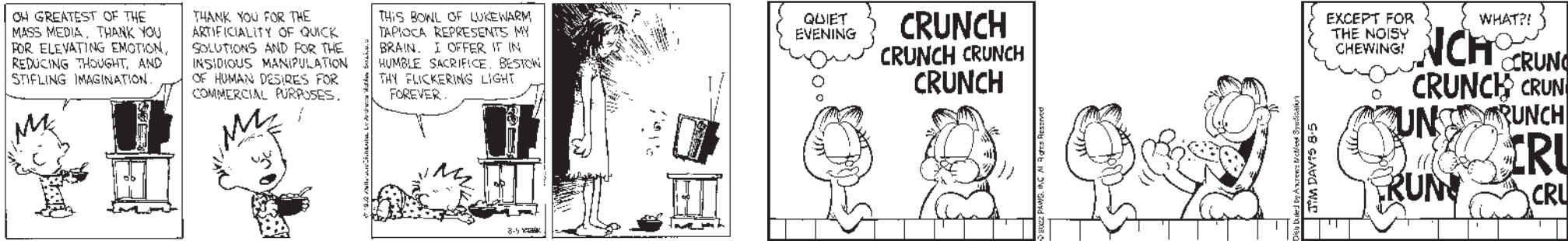
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

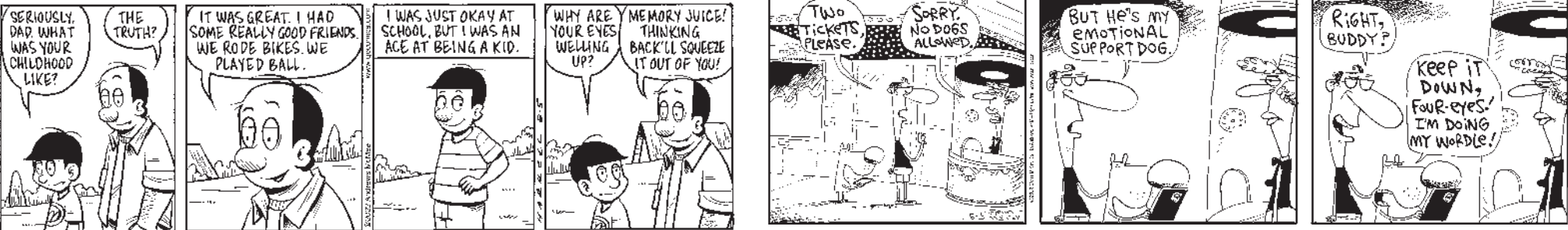


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Airport screening org.
- 4 Out of control
- 8 Appear ominously
- 12 Pioneering ISP
- 13 Kid's plea
- 14 "The Music Man" setting
- 15 Oaks
- 17 Daniel Craig role
- 18 "Home-land" star
- 19 Devious
- 21 ER workers
- 22 Per-suades
- 26 Track races
- 29 Wee dollop
- 30 Goat's plaint
- 31 Sym-phonie gp.
- 32 Sleep acronym
- 33 Dick Tracy's love
- 34 Con-sumed

DOWN

- 2 Satan's purchase
- 3 —
- 4 Squirrel's stash
- 5 High points
- 6 Low digit
- 7 Big-screen airer of stadium smooches
- 8 Tripoli's land
- 9 Tic-tac-toe win
- 10 Possess
- 11 Irate
- 16 Wharton's "House of —"
- 17 Arcing tennis shot
- 23 Marvel superheroes
- 24 Lighten
- 25 Get lippy
- 26 Deception
- 27 Deco artist
- 28 Computer brand
- 29 Lion's home
- 32 Exit in haste
- 33 Cardio-boxing routine
- 35 Wager
- 36 Seals and — (soft rock duo)
- 38 Noble gas
- 39 Group of eight
- 42 Chopping tools
- 43 Jeans maker
- 44 Romanov ruler
- 45 Transcript no.
- 46 British ref. work
- 47 Sugary suffix
- 49 Swiss canton

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lolo Jones, 40; Jesse Williams, 41; Jonathan Silverman, 56; Maureen McCormick, 66.

Happy Birthday: Being informed will help you get your way. Protect your position, reputation and status by welcoming what others think. The knowledge you gain will help you appease anyone who opposes your plans. Don't limit what you can do because you are too stubborn to give an inch to get a mile. Your numbers are 4, 12, 22, 26, 30, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be patient, thorough and protective. Take money matters and dealing with institutions seriously. Look at alternative methods of how to use your money wisely. Aim to build a secure future that offers peace of mind and the comforts you desire. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let your concerns consume you. Be open to suggestions, consider all your options and don't get in over your head. You may desire change, but don't make a move to satisfy a whim. Be smart and sit tight. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Getting along with your peers, friends and family will be complicated if you overreact or don't fulfill your promises. Organization, preparation and finishing what you start will be the pivotal point between success and failure. Do what's right. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional spending won't solve anything. Buying favors will backfire. Consider who you are, what you do and what you want. If you lose

sight of your goals and agonize over what others think, you will miss an opportunity to advance. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Finish what you start. Refuse to let what others do start a feud. Distance yourself from situations, people and decisions you feel don't support your needs. Choose stability over reacting emotionally. Don't give in to someone manipulative. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get motivated to make changes that encourage better opportunities and relationships. Attend functions conducive to meeting people who can help you advance. Update your look to ensure others view you as trendy and progressive. Romance is on the rise. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of your health and emotional well-being. Risks will cause problems. Stick to what and who you know in order to ward off interference and peer pressure. Choose what makes the most sense and brings the highest return. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your emotions in check and your mind focused on what you are trying to achieve. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Walk away from partnerships that no longer encourage or motivate you to look, feel and do your best. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more into your surroundings. Clear a space conducive to getting things done that will secure your financial position. Invest time and money in comfort, convenience and bringing you closer to loved ones. Be blunt and pay attention to detail. ***

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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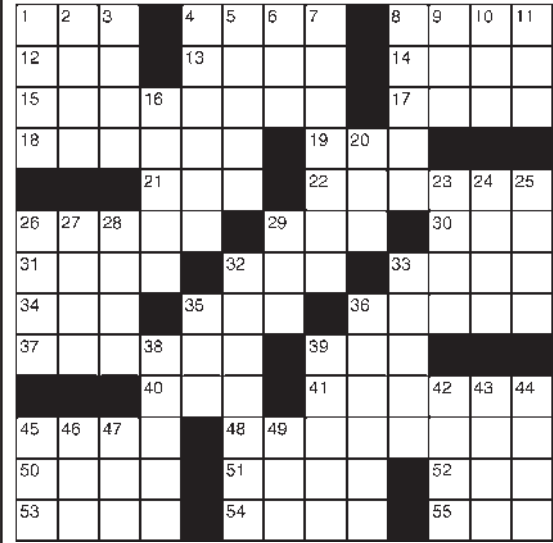
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Simplicity and moderation will help you keep things in perspective and stay on target. Focus on your financial plans, and maintain a lifestyle that puts a smile on your face. Don't give in to temptation or emotional manipulation. Romance is encouraged. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Bypass anyone trying to convince you to do something that doesn't feel right. Take the path that feels comfortable and offers something concrete. Refuse to let an emotional incident ruin your plans or come between you and your goals. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Implement change and invest more time and money in you, your future and the lifestyle you want to live. A difference in how you look will attract attention and lead to compliments. Social events will bring you in contact with someone special. *****

Birthday Baby: You are astute, impulsive and passionate. You are persistent and visionary.

☿: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ♀: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽: Aim high; start new projects. ☿☽☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ****

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MARQUEE LETTERS Solution: 6 letters

L A T N E R E T E M I R E P G
L R Y R A S R E V I N N A R N
E E L B I R T H D A Y R A O I
P T O L M S H S V B T D Y P D
S A V W O L G T I Y U M B O D
T E E C R A I H N A E L A S E
R H E A P I N G I T M P R B A W
A T E M B I N G I A M O R U L N
E Y S T A I O L G C I F O C G
H O T E L N L P E G A R O P I
E Z I S L I I D H M I L R N S
I H C R O P D T I O O A I O T
G E I V O M A L O R T O N O R
H N O E N M Y C N A F O R T F
T G U E S T A G E V I T S E F

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndicator www.wonderword.com 8/5
Anniversary, Baby, Balloons, Birthday, Bright, Bulb, Color, Decor, Family, Fancy, Festive, Foil, Font, Giant, Glow, Graduation, Guest, Heart, Height, Holiday, Hotel, Initials, Lights, Love, Metal, Mirror, Movie, Name, Neon, Night, Party, Perimeter, Photo, Porch, Prom, Proposal, Props, Rental, Room, Sign, Silver, Size, Spell, Stage, Theater, Vintage, Wedding, Year

Yesterday's Answer: Velocity
To purchase Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Newcomers Soto, Drury highlight Padres' 9-1 win over Rockies



SAN DIEGO
(AP)—Juan Soto got multiple ovations in his first game with the Padres and Brandon Drury did even better, hitting a grand slam on the first pitch he saw with his new team to lead San Diego to a 9-1 victory against the Colorado Rockies on an electric Wednesday night at Petco Park.

The Padres unveiled their new-look lineup with Soto batting second and Josh Bell hitting cleanup a day after they were obtained from Washington in one of the biggest deadline deals ever. Drury was also obtained on Tuesday, from Cincinnati, and put a charge into the already festive atmosphere with a grand slam off Chad Kuhl with one out in the first.

Manny Machado homered leading off the fifth and finished a triple short of the cycle in San Diego's fifth straight win. Jake Cronenworth had a two-run shot. The big beneficiary was left-hander Blake Snell (4-5), who struck out nine in six innings and won his third straight start.

Soto got a standing ovation from the sellout crowd when he ran out to his position in right field in the first inning. The fans rose and cheered again when he came to bat with one out in the bottom of the inning and drew a walk. Snell had a third straight strong start. He held the Rockies to one run and four hits in six innings, with no walks.

Kuhl (6-7) allowed nine runs and eight hits in five innings, struck out four and walked three.

Mariners 7, Yankees 3
In New York, Luis Castillo pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning in his Seattle debut, and the Mariners used a fast start to beat Gerrit Cole and New York.

Eugenio Suárez, Carlos Santana and Jarred Kelenic homered against Cole (9-4) during Seattle's six-run first. Jesse Winker connected against Wandy Peralta in the seventh, helping the Mariners match their season high for homers.

Castillo (5-4) struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings in his second start in the Bronx in less than a month. The right-hander allowed three runs and walked three.

The 29-year-old Castillo was acquired by Seattle in a trade with Cincinnati on Friday night for four prospects.

Dodgers 3, Giants 0
In San Francisco, Julio Urias won his eighth consecutive decision and Miguel Vargas drove in two runs in his major league debut as Los Angeles



San Diego Padres' Juan Soto watches his single against the Colorado Rockies during the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, in San Diego.

beat San Francisco.

Urias (11-6) threw six scoreless innings, struck out six and didn't issue a walk. The Dodgers—who wore patches on their gray jerseys to honor Hall of Fame announcer Vin Scully, who died Tuesday—won their fourth in a row and for the seventh time in eight games.

San Francisco threatened in the ninth, loading the bases with one out against Craig Kimbrel. But Kimbrel got Mike Yastrzemski to pop out and struck out Austin Slater looking to notch his 19th save.

The Giants dropped their seventh in a row to the Dodgers, their longest losing streak against Los Angeles in a season since also losing seven straight in 1980.

Athletics 3, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Sean Murphy homered and drove in three runs off Shohei Ohtani, leading Oakland past Los Angeles.

James Kaprielian (3-5) pitched six-hit ball into the sixth as the A's snapped their three-game losing streak by beating Ohtani (9-7), who has no victories over Oakland in five mound appearances since 2018. Zach Jackson pitched the ninth for his third save.

Ohtani yielded seven hits and two earned runs while pitching into the sixth inning of his third straight defeat, again falling short of his career-best 10th mound victory. The two-way AL MVP struck out seven A's.

The Angels' offense again failed to provide run support for Ohtani, who went 0 for 3 as the designated hitter before

getting pulled for a pinch-hitter in the seventh.

Luis Rengifo had a tying RBI double in the fifth for the Angels, who have lost four of six in another dismal season.

Phillies 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Nick Castellanos hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning as Philadelphia took full advantage of an overturned call.

The Phillies looked to be down to their final three outs when J.T. Realmuto grounded into what was ruled an inning-ending double play with the Braves nursing a 1-0 lead.

But Philadelphia challenged the call, and the replay showed Realmuto's foot getting to the bag ahead of the relay throw while Rhys Hoskins trotted home from third.

With the game now tied at 1, Collin McHugh (2-2) fell behind 2-0 in the count before grooving one to Castellanos, who connected for his ninth homer.

Mets 9, Nationals 5

In Washington, Daniel Vogelbach hit a grand slam for the Mets, and Pete Alonso connected for his 28th homer.

New York won for the eighth time in nine games and opened a 3 1/2-game lead over second-place Atlanta in the NL East. The teams begin a four-day, five-game series Thursday in New York.

Chris Bassitt (8-7) pitched seven shutout innings for New York, which finished with 14 hits.

Washington lost for the fifth time in seven games a day after it traded star outfielder Juan Soto and first baseman

Josh Bell to San Diego.

Astros 6, Red Sox 1

In Houston, Trey Mancini homered in his first start for Houston, and Jose Urquidy struck out 10 in seven scoreless innings.

Mancini hit a two-run drive in the second against Rich Hill (4-5), lifting the Astros to a 4-0 lead. Mancini was acquired in a trade with Baltimore on Monday and then grounded out as a pinch hitter in his Astros debut Tuesday night.

Urquidy (10-4) allowed two hits and walked none. Jose Altuve tied a career high with four hits to help Houston avoid a sweep after losing the first two games of the series.

Orioles 6, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, pinch-hitter Terrin Vavra lined a tiebreaking RBI double right after a disputed stolen base in the eighth inning, and the Orioles completed their first season series sweep against Texas.

The Rangers challenged when Jorge Mateo was ruled safe on a stolen base with two outs, and the call stood after a replay review of the bang-bang play. Vavra then doubled into left-center for a 3-2 lead, and Robinson Chirinos singled him home with his third hit.

Chirinos and Ryan McKenna homered for the Orioles (54-51), who swept all three games in Texas like they did at home a month ago. Cionel Pérez (6-1) got the win.

Jonah Heim and Marcus Semien homered for the Rangers, who dropped a season-worst 12 games under

.500 at 46-58 overall. Jose Leclerc (0-1) got the loss.

Pirates 8, Brewers 7

In Pittsburgh, Bryan Reynolds hit a solo homer to lead off the bottom of the ninth inning, powering Pittsburgh past NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Facing a 2-0 count, Reynolds sent a fastball from Devin Williams (2-1) 425 feet to right-center field for a lead-off blast. Reynolds' 16th homer of the season and first walk-off in the majors ended a drought of 15 games since he hit three against the Washington Nationals on June 26.

Wil Crowe (4-6) struck out one without allowing a hit in the final 1 1/3 innings for Pittsburgh.

Willy Adames had four RBIs for the Brewers, the final two coming on a two-out single in the eighth that cut into a three-run deficit. Rowdy Tellez then sent an RBI single down the line in right, tying it at 7.

White Sox 4, Royals 1

In Chicago, Lance Lynn pitched six effective innings and José Abreu homered for the second consecutive game, leading the White Sox to the victory.

Lynn (2-4) allowed one run on rookie Bobby Witt Jr.'s 15th homer in the sixth. He struck out eight and walked none.

Liam Hendriks worked the ninth for his 21st save.

The White Sox (53-51) won for the third time in four games while remaining two games behind the Twins and one behind the Guardians in the AL Central. The Royals lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Witt and Michael Massey each had two hits for Kansas City. Brady Singer (4-4) allowed a season-high 11 hits in six innings.

The game was delayed because of rain for 1 hour, 5 minutes with two outs in the bottom of the second.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., hits by newly acquired Jose Siri and David Peralta produced the winning run for the Rays.

Siri led off the Tampa Bay sixth with a single off Adam Cimber (8-4). He stole second and scored on Peralta's tiebreaking single.

Peralta had two of Tampa Bay's six hits, all singles, after they managed just two hits in Tuesday night's 3-1 loss.

Peralta was acquired in a trade with Arizona on Saturday, and Siri came over from Houston in a three-way trade on Monday.

Ryan Thompson (3-2) got the win after pitching two

hitless innings. Jason Adam worked the ninth for his fifth save in six attempts.

Teoscar Hernández drove in Toronto's runs with a first-inning double and his 15th homer in the fourth.

Twins 4, Tigers 1

In Minneapolis, Jorge López got his first save with his new team and newcomer Sandy León drove in two runs, leading Minnesota to the win.

Carlos Correa and Gio Urshela each drove in a run for the AL Central leaders. Joe Ryan (8-4) pitched five innings of one-run ball, bouncing back nicely after a rough outing at San Diego.

López, an All-Star acquired Tuesday from Baltimore, earned his 20th save of the season with a 1-2-3 ninth inning.

Harold Castro had three of Detroit's four hits. Tyler Alexander (2-5) allowed two runs in five innings.

Guardians 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Cleveland, Amed Rosario hit a mammoth three-run homer and rookie Oscar Gonzalez added a solo shot, sending Cleveland to the victory.

Rosario's 450-foot drive to dead center was the longest of the season at Progressive Field.

Shane Bieber (6-6) struck out eight over six innings in his 100th career start, extending his winning streak in interleague games to eight.

The Guardians remained one game behind AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Arizona left-hander Tommy Henry (0-1) pitched five innings in his major league debut, surrendering four runs and four hits.

Alek Thomas and Geraldo Perdomo homered for the Diamondbacks.

Marlins 3, Reds 0

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara threw his major league-leading third complete game and Miami beat Cincinnati to snap a nine-game home losing streak.

The All-Star right-hander allowed six hits, walked one and struck out three on 105 pitches for his third career shutout. Alcantara (10-4) is the first Marlins pitcher to reach double-digit victories in a season since Caleb Smith won 10 in 2019.

Luke Williams had three hits and stole three bases, while Jesús Aguilar homered for the Marlins.

Reds starter Mike Minor (1-8) was lifted after 5 1/3 innings. The left-hander allowed three runs, five hits, walked three and struck out six.

Brittney Griner's trial resumes amid intensified diplomacy



MOSCOW (AP)—Since Brittney Griner last appeared in her trial for cannabis possession, the question of her fate has expanded from a tiny, cramped courtroom on Moscow's outskirts to the highest level of Russia-U.S. diplomacy.

The WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist returns to court on Tuesday, a month after the beginning of the trial in which she could face 10 years in prison if convicted. As the trial has progressed, the Biden administration has faced rising calls for action to win her release.

In an extraordinary move, Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week spoke to his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, urging him to accept a deal under which Griner and Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia on an espionage conviction, would go free.

Although details of the offer remain shrouded, Blinken's public announcement of a proposal was at odds with the convention of keeping prisoner-release negotiations tightly under wraps. When American Trevor Reed, serving time for assaulting a police officer, was freed in April in exchange for a Russian drug trafficker, no clues of an imminent swap had emerged.

The Lavrov-Blinken call also was the highest-level known contact between Washington and Moscow since Russia sent troops into Ukraine more than five months ago. The direct outreach risks undermining a core message to U.S. allies that isolating Russia could force the eventual withdrawal of troops from Ukraine.

It also underlines the public pressure that the White House has faced to get Griner released, which has brought some backlash. Former President Donald Trump strongly criticized the proposal that people familiar with it have said envisions trading Griner and Whelan for the notorious arms trader Viktor Bout.

"He's absolutely one of the worst in the world, and he's going to be given his freedom because a potentially spoiled person goes into Russia loaded up with drugs," Trump said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Monday that Russia has made a "bad faith" response to the U.S. government's offer, a counteroffer that American officials don't regard as serious. She declined to elaborate.

Griner, speaking from the



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner speaks to her lawyers standing in a cage at a court room prior to a hearing, in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, AP

could occur until the judicial process is completed.

However, a Washington attorney who formerly was legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow said there is no formal requirement for a conviction before an exchange.

"If she is in fact being used as a political bargaining chip — and the administration has already designated her as wrongfully detained, presumably because they think she is being used as a political pawn — they may impose a very significant sentence as a way to maximize their leverage in negotiations," the attorney, Tom Firestone, told The Associated Press.

He also said that, given the Biden administration's public commitment to securing the release of Whelan and Griner, Russia "may want to let this play out a little bit longer and try to extract more concessions."

Russian officials have given no public hint of whether Blinken made headway in his call with Lavrov, only issuing a statement urging the Americans to pursue the matter though "quiet diplomacy without releases of speculative information."

Russia has repeatedly expressed annoyance with American statements on the case, saying they show a disrespect for Russian law.

NBA BRIEFS

DeMarre Carroll reunites with Budenholzer as Bucks assistant

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks have hired former NBA player DeMarre Carroll and former Utah Jazz assistant coach Vince Legarza as assistant coaches.

Carroll will be reunited with Bucks head coach Mike Budenholzer after playing for him with the Atlanta Hawks from 2013-15. His 11-season NBA playing career also included stints with the Memphis Grizzlies, Houston Rockets, Denver Nuggets, Utah Jazz, Toronto Raptors, Brooklyn Nets and San Antonio Spurs. Carroll most recently played with San Antonio and Houston in the 2019-20 season.

Legarza spent the last four seasons as an assistant coach with the Jazz. Before Utah, Legarza spent three seasons in the Minnesota Timberwolves' player development department.

In other moves, the Bucks promoted Charles Lee from assistant coach to associate head coach, promoted Blaine Mueller from head video coordinator to assistant coach,

and promoted Sidney Dobner from assistant video coordinator to head video coordinator. This will mark the ninth season that Lee has worked on one of Budenholzer's staffs.

Bulls and Dragic finalize \$2.9 million, 1-year contract

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls and guard Goran Dragic finalized a one-year, \$2.9 million contract on Tuesday.

The Bulls tweeted a welcome message in announcing the deal about a month after the two sides reached an agreement.

The 36-year-old Dragic has averaged 13.7 points and shot 36.2% on 3-pointers over 14 seasons with Phoenix, Houston, Miami, Toronto and Brooklyn. From Slovenia, he made an All-Star team with the Heat during the 2017-18 season and helped them advance to the 2020 NBA finals.

Dragic averaged 7.5 points while shooting 25.4% from beyond the arc last season for Toronto and Brooklyn. Though the Bulls ranked fourth in the NBA in

3-point accuracy, they were last in attempts.

The Bulls took a big step by winning 46 games with DeMar DeRozan and Zach LaVine leading the way and posting their best record in seven years.

Pelicans rookie Liddell has reconstructive knee surgery

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans Pelicans second-round draft choice E.J. Liddell has had surgery to repair torn knee ligaments, the team said Tuesday.

The injury to the 6-foot-6 forward from Ohio State occurred during a Summer League game on July 11 against the Atlanta Hawks in Las Vegas.

The Pelicans said the procedure performed Monday was a right ACL reconstruction and that Liddell remains out indefinitely.

Drafted 41st overall, Liddell averaged 19.4 points and 7.9 rebounds with the Buckeyes last season.

It wasn't clear if he was going to make the Pelicans' regular-season roster because the team already had

15 players under contract for next season. But Liddell could have been a two-way player, also spending time with the Pelicans' G League affiliate in Birmingham.

Hawks request waivers on 2021 second-round draft pick Cooper

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks requested waivers on guard Sharife Cooper, a 2021 second-round draft pick from Auburn, on Monday.

The move came after Cooper averaged 4.4 points and 4.2 assists in five games on Atlanta's Summer League team.

After signing a two-way contract, Cooper averaged only three minutes in 13 games with Atlanta as a rookie last season. He averaged 17.4 points and 6.4 assists in 34 G League games with the College Park Skyhawks.

Cooper's possible path to a roster spot in Atlanta became more difficult this offseason. The Hawks have fortified their point guard depth behind Trae Young with trades for Dejounte Murray and Aaron Holiday.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Man Amigos' Eric Palacios currently is the league leader in homeruns, runs batted in, and earned run average in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

Palacios so far has laid the lumber four times in the young season to share the homerun lead with five others—Garfield Sablan, John Terlaje, Taylor Germance, Jeff Cruz, and Deshawn Reign.

With 10 RBIs, Palacios also is tops in the department followed by Garfield Sablan, Jeff Cruz, Dominic Hideo with seven each and John Terlaje, James Fleming, Mike Tomakane, and Allen Teliu with six RBIs apiece.

Palacios has also impressed from the mound with a 0.00 ERA so far. John Diaz of Ngaraard Redmen is second with a 1.00 ERA with Ku Damien of Momma Charu completing the

Man Amigos' Palacios leads in 3 categories



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Man Amigos' Eric Palacios, seen here in a file photo, currently leads the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League in three categories.

Top 3 with a 1.06 ERA.

In the batting race, Asahi's Dominic Hideo is ahead with an .875 average. Tokehao's Robert Bansil and Hideo's teammate Hector Efraim are second and third with batting averages of

.833 and .800, respectively.

Jaime Reyes and John Terlaje have scored the most runs so far with five each, while those with four are Mike Tomokane, Garfield Sablan, James Fleming, Eric Palacios, Barrie Maratita,

J.J. Laniyo, Suo Matsutaro, Allen Teliu, and Hector Efraim.

In doubles, Jeff Cabrera, Robert Bansil, Payton Sakuma, Hector Efraim, and Audie Maratita are tied at first with three each, while 23 others are

tied with one apiece.

Dominic Hideo so far paces everyone in strikeouts with nine, followed by Kui Damien, Tom Camacho, and Ray Villagomez with six each. Joe Celis completes the Top 3 in strikeouts with six Ks.

In the women's division, Queen of the Diamond's Kiana Aldan is *numero uno* in four categories—runs scored, triples, homeruns, and RBIs.

Aldan has scored seven runs so far in the season in a tie with teammate Kiana Camacho. The 1-2 punch of the league-leading team is followed by Erica Tenorio with six, while Emi Oiterong, Rosie Saralu, and Sonia Isaac are all tied in third place with five apiece.

Aldan shares the lead in triples with one with six others—Keolani Rios, Edilyn Benjamin, Joyce Taro, Daisy Kaipat, Rosie Saralu, and Keyona Tudela.

She's also the current home-run queen with three round-trippers so far this season. Rosie

Saralu is the lone player in the women's league to also have a homerun with one.

In RBIs, Aldan and Saralu share the cake with six each, followed by the five of Kayla Kaipat. Bert Camacho, Janica Lizama, Keyona Tudela, and Mardina Kaipat have four RBIs in their name.

In batting average, Aldan's teammate Keolani Rios is tops with an .800 batting average. Hot Shots' Erica Tenorio is second with a norm of .778 with Aldan completing the Top 3 at .709.

Queen of the Diamond's Bert Camacho tops the ERA department with a 1.91 average. Kosebaki's Jennie Scaliem is second with an ERA of 2.15 with Hot Shots' Lem Ogumoro third at 2.33.

Jennie Scaliem lords it over in the strikeouts category with 13 followed by Bert Camacho with 11. Emy Oiterong and Analyn Olupumar shared third with five apiece.

CNMI

From Page 24

"Fiji is wonderful and the people are wonderful. It's a very humble place. It's very nice to see all the countries from across the Pacific come together again. We've met some of them from the Mini

Games so we've built great relationships. It's nice to see a lot of folks here representing their country and just having a good time."

The playing coach added that the Pacific Nations Cup is also elevating their play.

"Everytime we get experience at this level it's good and it helps to add to the capacity of our team. Colin has been playing our No. 1 spot and he's been really excelling. It's been good."

For Ramsey, the tourney in Fiji is allowing him not only to spread his wings in the sport but also develop lifelong bonds with his teammates.

"It's definitely been a journey of exploration with Bobby and I as a team. We're just forging better relationships between Bobby and the girls as well through our travels and

play and getting to talk and hear their stories and trying to help them in tennis."

While the men are coming into the semis ranked No. 2 in their pool, the women are more impressive after getting the top ranking.

This, after Isabel Heras and Hye Jin Elliot shocked No. 1 seed Samoa yesterday to advance as the top seed in their pool at 3-0.

Elliot gave her best in the first singles match but surrendered a 4-6, 5-7 loss to Samoa's Rosie Tupuola in a tough 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Good thing for the CNMI, Heras again came to rescue after a gutsy 6-2, 6-3 victory over Mahina Warren in just 1 hour and 32 minutes.

In the make-or-break doubles match, Heras and Elliot rode a roller-coaster ride of a

match before prevailing against Warren and Eleanor Schuster in a super tiebreaker, 6-1, 2-6, 10-7. The match lasted 1 hour and 16 minutes.

Prior to their match against top seed Samoa, the duo said they're pumped up just being in contention for the Top 2 seeds in their pool.

"I'm proud of Hye Jin and her fight today in singles. She tried her very best, but her opponent was a better player. This event is about teamwork and the doubles point yet again helped us get a win," said Heras after their victory against Tahiti Wednesday.

Elliot added she's just proud they were able to eke out the win against Tahiti.

"I'm proud that Isabel and I got our second win today."

She added that the Pacific Nations Cup is turning out to

be a nice trade off for missing the past two North Pacific Regional Championships.

"The Nations Cup is definitely on a higher level of tennis. So it really challenges me to play at my best," she said.

Cruz applauded Heras and Elliot's fightback in the face of having to win their second singles matches the past couple of games against Tahiti and Samoa.

"They've had some tough wins and some tough losses individually but they've been able to put it together in the doubles. They've been winning a lot of clutch doubles matches. Because of their win against Samoa today they emerged No. 1 in their pool, which is good because they weren't seeded. It really says something about how well Isabel and Hye Jin are playing. It's been a lot of

fun and a lot of tense moments. A lot of nerves and a lot of injuries. All of us are getting patch-ups done to try and stay alive."

Cruz also took time to thank everyone back home for their support of Team NMI in Fiji.

"On behalf of the entire team, all of us just want to thank the entire CNMI for their continued support. All the different sponsors that supported our participation here and also our families. We just want to give a shoutout to our families and loved ones we're spending time away from home so it's a big commitment for all of us," he said.

After three consecutive years of postponements due to COVID-19 border closures, the International Tennis Federation-sponsored 3rd Pacific Nations Cup finally got underway this week.

is they get to enjoy the ride together.

"It's very nice. These are good memories that we will never forget and it's all brotherly love," said Stanley.

"It feels good because my brother takes care of me," added Conan.

In the Peeewe I Class, Roseha Untalan ruled the roost with a perfect 50 points followed by Jarell Untalan with 22 points.

and the Public School System for helping us do these," Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Merlie Tolentino said.

Meanwhile, the two-month long summer camp will conclude on Aug. 20 with a host of activities, including the awarding of certificates to participants, matches for each of the four sports, and fun games. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	70	36	.660	
Toronto	58	46	.558	11
Tampa Bay	55	49	.529	14
Baltimore	54	51	.514	15½
Boston	53	53	.500	17

Central Division

Minnesota	55	49	.529	
Cleveland	54	50	.519	1
Chicago	53	51	.510	2
Detroit	42	64	.396	14
Kansas City	41	64	.390	14½

West Division

Houston	68	38	.642	
Seattle	57	49	.538	11
Texas	46	58	.442	21
Los Angeles	44	60	.423	23
Oakland	40	66	.377	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	66	38	.635	
Atlanta	63	42	.600	3½
Philadelphia	56	48	.538	10
Miami	48	57	.457	18½
Washington	36	70	.340	31

Central Division

Milwaukee	57	47	.548	
St. Louis	55	48	.534	1½
Cincinnati	42	62	.404	15
Pittsburgh	42	62	.404	15
Chicago	41	61	.402	15

West Division

Los Angeles	71	33	.683	
San Diego	61	46	.570	11½
San Francisco	51	54	.486	20½
Arizona	46	58	.442	25
Colorado	46	61	.430	26½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IAKOPO

From Page 24

up to the next race class next season," said 11-year-old Stanley.

"It feels good. I am ready to end the season with another big win," said the 9-year-old Conan.

The two agreed that what made their wins more fulfilling was that the track in the

Marianas Racing Association-organized race was less than ideal last Sunday.

"We thought the track would be tacky from days of rain, but ended up drying up. It rained during heat 2."

Stanley and Conan also attributed their victory last Sunday to being in optimum physical condition.

"We maintain cardio, strength, and conditioning to avoid arm pumps and build

fore," said Evan Joseph Seguritan, who signed up for soccer.

Therese Castillo, on the other hand, is joining the badminton sessions and loves how they do drills that make her move a lot and have fun with other children.

Emilie Quemado, who has two sons enrolled in the program, acknowledged how camps like this are beneficial to

agility. Thank you also to our dad for always training us," they said.

Asked to whom they are dedicating their wins in the July points race, Stanley and Conan had differing answers.

"I dedicate all my wins to my mom and dad and Angelo because they always help me," said the former.

"I dedicated the win to myself because I want the No. 1 plate trophy," said Conan.

children, especially in the summertime. She said she wants her children to remain active instead of staying at home and being glued to gadgets. Quemado added that through the camp, she hopes her children will find the sport that they will enjoy and continue to play.

"We are pleased with the turnout of this year's summer camp. When we established

Stanley said he got his start in the sport after seeing people do stunts. "I wanted to be like them so I joined motocross."

For Conan, he took up the sport to follow his brother's footsteps.

"Stanley Jr. got me interested in the sport. Also, I made new friends."

For the two Saipan International School students what makes competing in motocross races more worthwhile

this program, our goal was to cater to as many children as we can. We want to provide more opportunities for them to play sports, learn good values on and off the court, and of course engage in activities that would help them stay active and healthy. We thanked the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Childcare & Development Fund Program



Newcomers Soto,
Drury highlight
Padres' 9-1 win over
Rockies
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Man Amigos'
Palacios leads in 3
categories

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

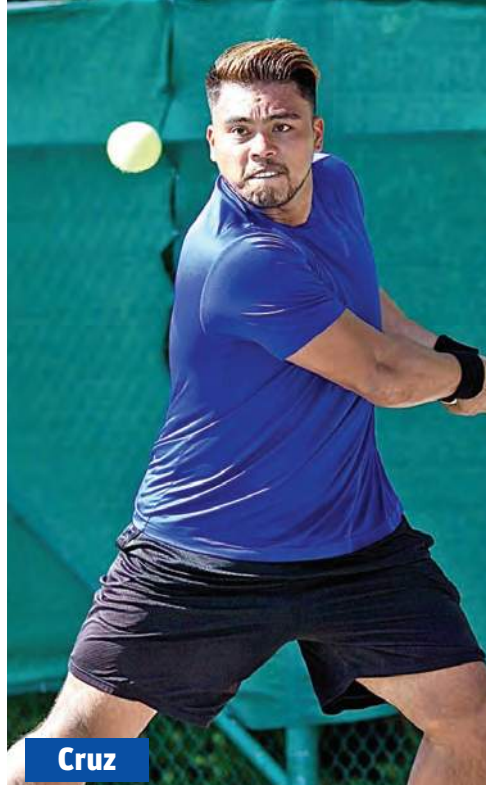
CNMI men, women advance to semis in Fiji



Elliot



Heras



Cruz



Ramsey

By MARK RABAGO
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The CNMI National Tennis Team advanced to both the semifinals of the men's and women's divisions in the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup in Lautoka, Fiji.

Playing coach Bobby Cruz and Colin Ramsey finished pool play with a 2-1 win-loss record after beating Solomon Islands yesterday.

Cruz gave the CNMI a 1-0 lead after dominating his singles match against Popai Leong, 6-2, 6-1, in 1 hour and 38 minutes.

Solomon Islands, however, equalized after Junior Miki rebounded from a first set loss to beat Ramsey, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, in an epic match that lasted 2

hours and 20 minutes.

In the deciding doubles match, Cruz and Ramsey survived Leong and Miki in the first set before blowing them out of the water in the second, 6-4, 6-1, in a match that lasted just 57 minutes.

Aside from playing terrific tennis on the court, Cruz said all of them are having a great time in Fiji and also reconnecting with familiar faces.

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Iakopo brothers dominate divisions

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Brothers Stanley Iakopo Jr. and Conan Briggeman Iakopo ruled their respective divisions in the July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

Stanley, who rides a 2020 Yamaha YZ65, topped the Mini I Class after winning both heats for a perfect score of 50 points. Harley Susulin was the only other finisher in the division and got 44 points.

Aboard his trusty 2018 50cc Husqvarna, Conan, meanwhile, was the winner

in the Pee wee II Class after also topping both races for a perfect score of 50 points. Keeno Togawa and Kaleb Reyes followed suit with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

The Iakopo brothers shared that winning their divisions was a great experience.

"It feels amazing. It gives me the confidence to move

See IAKOPO on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stanley Iakopo Jr., left, and Conan Briggeman Iakopo pose during a break in the July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.



SSS Summer Camp draws over 100 participants daily



The Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp 2022 has recorded its largest daily average number of participants since the inception of the program more than five years ago.

Coordinator Christy Villafior said the two morning sessions of the camp at the TSL Sports Complex combined for an average of around 130 participants daily. Soccer has

the most participants with 85, while badminton, basketball, and volleyball each averaged between 25 to 32 participants daily.

"This year's summer camp is very well received judging from the number of attendees we have and they've been coming in consistently from Monday through Friday, learning the basics of the four sports we are offering and having fun with their peers," said Villafior.

The summer camp, which SSS and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation are organizing through the assistance of the Department of Community and

Cultural Affairs' Childcare & Development Fund Program and the Public School System, is open to children in the 6 to 12 age group. While attendees signed up for only one sport,

they also have the option to try the three other programs.

"The program is not just about sports, but we also have activities that allow participants to learn and practice sportsmanship and fair play, camaraderie, and teamwork. They are also guided on how to conduct themselves when doing activities or interacting with their fellow camp participants and the coaches,"

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MICHAELA PANGANIBAN
Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp 2022 participants get ready for a small-sided game, while others wait for their turn and listen to instructions from coach Ian Lubao during one of their sessions last week at the TSL Sports Complex.